

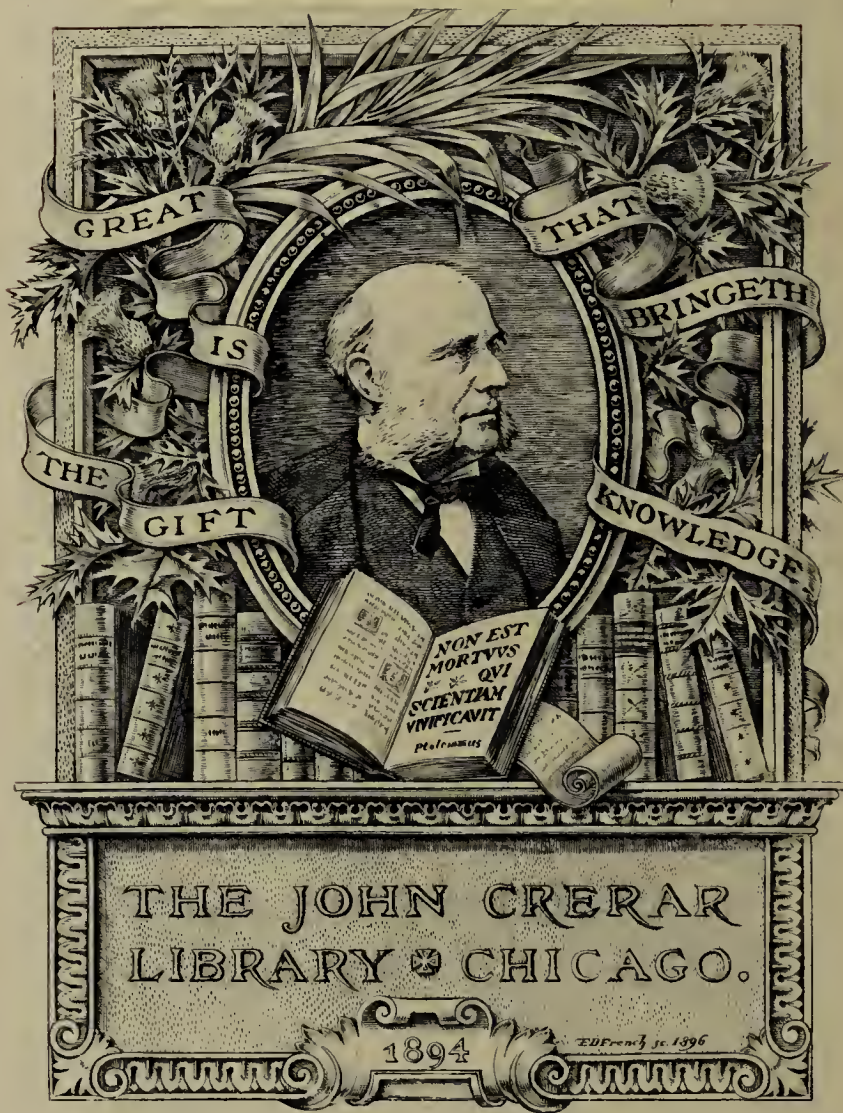
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LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY  
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Thirty Second Annual Report

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

Fletcher Free Library

Burlington, Vermont

1905

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# Thirty Second Annual Report

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

## Fletcher Free Library

### Burlington, Vermont

## 1905

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BURLINGTON:

FREE PRESS PRINTING CO.,  
PRINTERS, BINDERS, STATIONERS.

1906.

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# THE FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY

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Founded in 1873, by Mrs. Mary L. Fletcher and Miss Mary  
M. Fletcher.

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## OFFICERS

### TRUSTEES OF THE LIBRARY.

M. H. BUCKHAM, *President*.  
MRS. G. G. BENEDICT, *Secretary*.  
HENRY L. WARD, *Treasurer*.  
WILLIAM J. VAN PATTEN.  
MAYOR, *ex-officio*.

### TRUSTEES OF THE FLETCHER FUND.

EDWARD WELLS,  
JOEL H. GATES,  
E. HENRY POWELL.

---

*Librarian*—Sarah C. Hagar.

*Cataloguer and Children's Librarian*—Ruth M. Kidder.

*Assistant Librarian*—Lizzie R. Moore.

*Second Assistant*—Elizabeth A. Lapham.

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
**FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY.**

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

BURLINGTON, VT., Jan. 1, 1906.

*To the Honorable the City Council, City of Burlington:*

GENTLEMEN:—The Trustees of the Fletcher Free Library have the honor to transmit herewith the report of the Librarian for the year 1905:

The principal event of the year in the Library has been the completion of the card catalogue begun the previous year. Miss Farr finished her work in August, and reported to the Trustees a completed catalogue of 19,842 volumes, requiring the writing and filing of 41,922 cards. This does not include duplicates, and the large number of bound periodicals, government reports, etc., on the shelves, which it was not considered necessary to catalogue, and which bring the number of volumes in the Library to the total of 30,379, reported by the Librarian.

The whole expense of the catalogue amounted to \$3,401.86. Of this sum \$2,548.54 was for salaries and clerical work during fourteen months; \$283.11 for the cases containing the cards; \$237.35 for typewriting machines—one purchased and two rented—and the remainder, \$332.86, for Library Bureau supplies and incidentals.

It is an inaccuracy, however, to speak of the *completion* of the catalogue, which is never complete so long as books are constantly added to the Library. Miss Farr completed the catalogue up to the date of her leaving, and the Trustees consider themselves fortunate in having secured the services of Miss Kidder, who assisted Miss Farr, and is a graduate of the Dr xel Library School, to keep up the catalogue as additions are made to the Library. Miss Kidder began work

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UNIVERSITY OF  
ILLINOIS LIBRARY

on the 19th of September at a salary of \$50 per month, and has catalogued since then 343 titles, representing 433 volumes, and 896 cards filed. Besides her work on the catalogue, Miss Kidder has charge of the children's room at the hours when they are there most, and is doing excellent work. She has also prepared a bulletin, issued at the beginning of the present year, containing a list of the periodicals taken by the Library and a classified list of the books added to the Library during the last six months. It contains 76 titles of periodicals and 374 titles of books, representing 433 volumes. It is hoped that a wide and judicious distribution of this bulletin among the reading public may lead to a larger and more intelligent use of the Library. This bulletin is intended to be the first of a series to be issued from time to time, which may be had by any one for the asking, and mailed to any address on application by post card.

Miss Lapham, who has for three years worked in the Library for a nominal compensation, has been engaged as a regular assistant at a salary of \$25 a month, dating from September 1st.

The main problem of the year for the Trustees has been the financial one. The addition to the staff of the Library made necessary by the occupation of the new and larger building, has increased the amount of the yearly salaries (including that of the janitor) by \$1,356—nearly doubling the amount paid in the old building (\$1,444). In addition to this there has been the large extra expense of the catalogue, for which a special appropriation should have been made at the beginning, which has compelled the Trustees to ask repeatedly for the additional appropriation from the city, which has at last been granted in the form of a loan.

The building has never been completed. The floor of the basement of the stack-room is in most unsatisfactory condition. Walking over it—to say nothing of sweeping it—raises a dust that rises through the tiers of stacks to the great injury of the books. The transoms above the windows have never been fitted with transom-lifts, and are consequently quite useless for ventilation for which they were intended, and which is necessary to the comfort and health of those who occupy the building. These and other matters have been repeatedly brought to the attention of the Committee on Public Buildings, but they are not yet remedied.

Additional shelf-room for books will soon be necessary. The shelves are now very nearly full, and more stacks will have to be added



before long, or the purchase of books must cease. The one desire of the Trustees is to administer the Library in fidelity to their trust, and so as to secure its largest measure of usefulness to the community. This they are unable to do, if they are continually hampered by the suspicion, not to say opposition, of those from whom they have a right to expect hearty co-operation and sympathy. They do not wish to squander the city's money, and they insist as earnestly as does the Board of Aldermen on a wise economy and a strict accountability in the expenditure of the public funds. But they cannot but feel that the interests of the Library have suffered somewhat from a lack of the cordial understanding which should prevail between the two bodies which share the responsibility of its maintenance, both of which have, or should have, the interests of the community equally at heart. It is the earnest desire of the Trustees that this condition should be remedied, and they are ready, so far as in them lies, to use every effort to bring about a better understanding.

Respectfully submitted,

For the Trustees,

KATHERINE A. BENEDICT,

Secretary.

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#### REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

---

BURLINGTON, Vt., Jan. 2, 1906.

*To the Trustees of the Fletcher Free Library:*

As has been the custom of this Library, I respectfully submit the Librarian's report for the year ending December 31, 1905, the thirty-second since the opening of the Library and the twenty-first I have brought to the attention of your Board.

The books given out for home use in 1905 numbered 41,683, showing a decrease of 359 compared with 1904, when they amounted to 42,042. The circulation of fiction and books for the young was 31,383, an increase of 528. With access to the shelves there is a large demand for light reading. The largest circulation for a month was in March, when it was 4,329; the smallest in June, only 2,464. The largest on any one day was on March 11, amounting to 307; the smallest on June 15, only 59.

During the last year 1,000 volumes have been added to the catalogue of accessions, making the total number entered 30,379. Of these 119 were gifts. This does not include valuable government publications, which are not catalogued but are accessible by a list and the index furnished us. Among the important books published are the *Encyclopedia Americana*, 16 volumes; the 10 volumes already published of "*The American Nation; a history*"; *Modern Eloquence*, 10 volumes; large illustrated books on Scottish market crosses, Mantegna, and Luca della Robbia; also many new and attractive illustrated books of travel and description. Many volumes that had become worn and soiled have been discarded and replaced by better copies.

Reading and reference work in the Library increase constantly with the facilities we have now for study in the reference room. No record of the use of books not taken from the Library can be kept, as it is impossible to have an attendant spend her time in keeping exact statistics, especially now that there is such freedom of access to the shelves. At all hours readers and students are at the tables in the reading room, often with a pile of books before them for examination or study. Members of the Women's Clubs make great use of the more serious reading. Many students in the University and High School read and take notes here when writing their essays and preparing for debates. Teachers of the younger grades of the public schools send scholars here to look up subjects connected with their lessons.

We also lend books needed for special study, not fiction, to smaller libraries in the State. A few times we have asked similar aid from larger libraries in other states, and have offers of books of that kind, if needed, from several librarians.

As one librarian in substance says,—A public library is the one institution in a city supported by the people for all the people, young and old, rich and poor, scholars and the ordinary reader or casual visitor. How to enlist the interest of all and make the books easy for every one to obtain, is a problem the trustees and librarians of this library are attempting to solve, as far as the means at their disposal allow,—by access to all the shelves; a new card catalogue; bulletins to be frequently published; also lists of new books in the daily papers, and others on the tables in the library; and the personal interest of the librarians in all who come to the library for serious study or simply for recreation. Every member of a library staff should feel true willingness to serve every one, all classes and all ages.

More effort and pains are expended on the children's department now that they have an attractive room, light, airy and spacious, with the books on low shelves, easily reached, provided with tables and seats for many who stay to read or look at pictures.

I am very grateful for the appointment by the Trustees of two additional assistants on the Library staff, much needed to provide for increased duties in the new and larger building, with changed conditions and wider opportunities for service.

Respectfully submitted,

SARAH C. HAGAR,

Librarian.

#### APPENDIX A.

##### *Circulation for 1905.*

	Fiction and Juveniles.	Total.
January .....	2,636	3,710
February .....	2,898	3,514
March .....	3,250	4,329
April .....	2,781	3,783
May .....	2,326	3,207
June .....	1,920	2,464
July .....	2,292	2,900
August .....	2,412	3,034
September .....	2,415	3,240
October .....	2,698	3,904
November .....	2,722	3,920
December .....	2,733	3,678
	<hr/> 31,083	<hr/> 41,683

#### APPENDIX B.

##### *Circulation from 1875.*

	Fiction and Juveniles.	Total.
1875 (open 131 days) .....		15,538
1876 .....		35,448
1877 .....	30,471	38,458



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1878	.....	25,186	35,238
1879	.....	21,809	33,077
1880	.....	19,579	29,432
1881	.....	19,212	28,262
1882	.....	18,308	26,438
1883	.....	17,092	25,576
1884	.....	15,027	20,173
1885	.....	20,489	29,475
1886	.....	27,337	37,753
1887	.....	26,917	37,933
1888	.....	28,701	41,948
1889	.....	29,032	43,464
1890	.....	30,303	45,828
1891	.....	30,983	46,387
1892	.....	31,599	47,203
1893	.....	27,621	42,184
1894	.....	28,740	43,942
1895	.....	33,082	48,762
1896	.....	36,363	52,829
1897	.....	37,198	53,391
1898	.....	38,511	52,456
1899	.....	38,329	52,005
1900	.....	36,864	49,433
1901	.....	33,293	44,002
1902	.....	31,330	42,834
1903	.....	28,586	40,158
1904	.....	30,555	42,042
1905	.....	31,083	41,683









# Thirty Third Annual Report

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

## Fletcher Free Library

CARNEGIE BUILDING

Burlington, Vermont

1906

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BURLINGTON:  
FREE PRESS PRINTING CO.,  
PRINTERS, BINDERS, STATIONERS.  
1907.



# Thirty Third Annual Report

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

## Fletcher Free Library

CARNEGIE BUILDING

### Burlington, Vermont

## 1906

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BURLINGTON:  
FREE PRESS PRINTING CO.,  
PRINTERS, BINDERS, STATIONERS.

1907.

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# REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

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BURLINGTON, VT., Jan. 2, 1907.

*To the Trustees of the Fletcher Free Library:*

The Librarian's annual report for the year ending December 31, 1906, the thirty-third since the opening of the Library, and the twenty-second I have brought before your Board, is respectfully submitted.

During the last year 760 volumes have been added to the catalogue of accessions, making the number so entered 31,139. Of these 42 were gifts, 70 were added from binding periodicals, 648 were new purchases. In 1905, 1,000 volumes were added to our accessions.

No very important or expensive publications were purchased this year. I mention only History of the English Church, 7 volumes; History of Modern England, 5 volumes; Hunt's Pre Raphaelites, 2 volumes, illustrated.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Hall has sent us five volumes, completing 13 volumes we have now of his writings. Mrs. Benedict gave books and magazines to complete our set of Littell's Living Age; J. R. Coolidge of Boston, subscription for International Studio; Mrs. Barton sent us 16 volumes of St. Nicholas, always useful in the children's room.

The books given out for home use in 1906 numbered 42,667, showing a slight increase of 984 compared with 1905, when they amounted to 41,683. The circulation of fiction and books for the young was 30,924, a decrease of 159, compared with the previous year. In 1897, the total circulation was 53,391, amounting to 10,724 more than last year. The decreased circulation is probably due in part to the various circulating libraries, which do not discriminate in the quality of the books they offer. Also with a comfortable reading-room in the new building, there is much more reading and reference work in the Library.

At an early period in the life of the Library there began a liberal connection with the public schools. Every teacher can come to the Library, take as many books as she chooses for herself or her scholars,—for school use or for children to take home,—and keep them for a school term if she wishes.

The Superintendent of Schools takes a warm interest in this connection between the Library and the schools, has offered to be responsible for books lost or injured, as will happen with all the care of the teachers. We have never had occasion to ask him to do so, for when such an accident occurs the teachers have preferred to arrange it. Those teachers who continue to take out books for their schools, always select many volumes of useful knowledge written to interest the young, take little fiction, and only of the best character. One teacher never takes any fiction for her school without looking it over herself to be sure it is suitable for her scholars. One teacher of the younger classes sends children to us with a note requesting us to let them take some book, with a message from their mother also, but they are refused and sent away because not yet ten years old.

The attractive reading-room, with 34 magazines and newspapers, 14 of which are gifts, and the collection of encyclopedias and bound periodicals has always some readers, and is well filled in the later hours of the day, furnishing recreation for many and a place for serious study for studious readers.

The children's room also is light and airy, well provided with the best literature for the young. The proportion of books *not* fiction read by boys and girls seems greater than that circulated among adult readers. The many attractive useful books provided for the young encourages such a selection. The pleasant, intent faces seen at the reading tables are evidence of what the Library is to the children. Their books are in constant use, are soon worn out and have to be replaced. Children's magazines are popular, and soon in bad condition. By timely gifts from friends and by purchase our sets of St. Nicholas and Wide Awake are kept complete. A few bound volumes of other children's magazines are also gifts.

On taking the inventory this year we find more than 200 volumes missing. This is less in proportion than many larger libraries report on beginning with open shelves. We also find more books injured than formerly, leaves or whole signatures lost, partly from carelessness,



partly due to poor binding. It seems as if now that we pay more for books the binding is poorer than before.

A librarian suggests as ways to make a library popular: a central location, a building with as much light and air as possible, accessible in every way, a selection of books made with good taste, at the same time with a tolerance for other people's taste; adding books and building do not make a library; everyone connected with it should feel that the library is not for them, but for the people.

Our bulletins are now published regularly, lists of new books published in the daily papers, the catalogue kept up to date. The report on the work accomplished on it is as follows:

Catalogued from Jan. 1, 1906, to Jan. 1, 1907, 821 books, 961 volumes in all, representing 2,185 cards filed in the card catalogue. Also 21 sets of bound periodicals, 1,264 volumes, with 24 cards. This brings the total of books catalogued since June, 1904, to 16,691 titles, 22,500 volumes, 45,007 cards.

The inventory up to Jan 1, 1907, reports 224 volumes missing, of which 51 are fiction, 90 non-fiction and 83 children's books. One-fifth of this number are probably overdue books which will eventually be returned.

Respectfully submitted,

SARAH C. HAGAR, Librarian.

#### APPENDIX A.

(Circulation for 1905.)

	<i>Fiction</i>	<i>Total.</i>
January .....	3,227	4,510
February .....	2,864	4,146
March .....	3,190	4,566
April .....	2,453	3,390
May .....	2,255	3,175
June .....	2,127	2,730
July .....	2,529	3,313
August .....	2,328	2,994
September .....	2,185	2,931
October .....	2,495	3,566
November .....	2,743	3,987
December .....	2,528	3,359
	<hr/> 30,924	<hr/> 42,667









**Thirty Fourth Annual Report**

**OF THE**

**TRUSTEES**

**OF THE**

**Fletcher Free Library**

**CARNEGIE BUILDING**

**Burlington, Vermont**

**1907**





# Thirty Fourth Annual Report

OF THE

## TRUSTEES

OF THE

# Fletcher Free Library

CARNEGIE BUILDING

Burlington, Vermont

1907

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BURLINGTON :  
FREE PRESS PRINTING CO.  
PRINTERS, BINDERS, STATIONERS.  
1908.

*R. B. W.*

# THE FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY.

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Founded in 1873, by Mrs. Mary L. Fletcher and Miss Mary  
M. Fletcher,

CARNEGIE BUILDING.

1904.

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## OFFICERS

### TRUSTEES OF THE LIBRARY.

M. H. BUCKHAM, *President*.

Mrs. G. G. BENEDICT, *Secretary*.

HENRY L. WARD, *Treasurer*.

WILLIAM J. VAN PATTEN.

MAYOR, *ex officio*.

### TRUSTEES OF THE FLETCHER FUND.

EDWARD WELLS,

JOEL H. GATES,

E. HENRY POWELL.

---

*Librarian*—Sarah C. Hagar.

*Cataloguer and Children's Librarian*—Ruth M. Kidder.

*Assistant Librarian*—Lizzie R. Moore.

*Second Assistant*—Elizabeth A. Lapham.

REPORT OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE FLETCHER FREE  
LIBRARY.

---

*To the Honorable, the City Council, City of Burlington:*

The Trustees of the Fletcher Free Library have the honor to transmit to you herewith the report of the Librarian for the year 1907, containing the statistics of the Library as to additions, circulation, the use of the Library by the public, and other matters of general interest.

The staff of the Library consists, as for the past two years, of the Librarian and three assistants. One of the latter divides her time between the oversight of the children's room and the cataloguing of the additions to the Library, which have also been listed in bulletins issued twice during the year, in January and July.

By the provisions of the new city charter which went into effect on the first of April, a Board of Library Commissioners was created, constituted as follows: the Mayor, *ex-officio*; two members appointed by the City Council, and two by the Trustees of the Fletcher Free Library. This Board has charge of the Library building and grounds, and expends the money appropriated by the city for the maintenance of the Library; the Trustees retaining, as they are bound to do by the deed of gift, the care and control of the Library itself and of the income of the Fletcher fund.

At present the Trustees are represented on the Board by two of their number, Mr. Ward and Mr. Van Patten, besides the Mayor, who is a member *ex-officio* of both bodies, and there is every reason to believe that the new order of things will result in a harmonious and increasingly efficient administration of the Library.

Respectfully submitted for the Trustees,

KATHERINE A. BENEDICT,

Secretary.



REPORT OF

**THE LIBRARIAN.**

---

The Librarian's annual report for the year ending December 31, 1907, the thirty-fourth since the opening of the Library and the twenty-third I have brought before your Board, is respectfully submitted. During the last year 960 volumes have been added to the catalogue of accessions, making the number entered 32,099. Of these 140 were gifts, 24 of the gifts were periodicals we have had bound for our shelves, 820 were purchased. The more important additions were: Irish Literature, 10 volumes; Brandes' Shakespeare, 40 volumes; Kingsley's works, 14 volumes; Poe's writings, 6 volumes; Richard Grant White's edition of Shakespeare, 6 volumes; Cooper's novels, 32 volumes; Ibsen's works, 11 volumes.

Thus we have strengthened with improved editions the older books of permanent value already on the shelves, which were becoming worn or defaced, rather than buying many books of the day soon to be forgotten.

The books given out for home use in 1907 numbered 41,552, a slight decrease of 1,115 compared with 1906, when they amounted to 42,667. The circulation of fiction and books for the young was 31,270, an increase of 846 compared with 1906, when it was 30,424. The supply of Sunday papers and of cheap illustrated magazines, as well as the several circulating libraries which supply many novels which we have not cared to purchase, are responsible for some of the decrease in circulation.

The larger number of readers seem to seek only recreation, ask for the last new novel or the lightest and poorest fiction, but it is worthy of note that there is always a demand not only for serious books, but for the best novels by the best writers, as Scott, Thackeray, Hawthorne, for *Les Misérables*, etc. I make one little effort to elevate the standard of taste, which idea I borrowed from some other libraries; when a poor

novel is called for I place in it a little printed list of popular novels, not the best, perhaps, but better than the one in demand. Sometimes it is not noticed, but often the list is kept and every book in it called for in turn, perhaps because it saves the trouble of thinking.

Perhaps it is useless to expect an increase in circulation from the central library. Though there is an increase in population in the city, a large part is on the outskirts of the city. They have no connection with the Library, but could be reached by delivery stations or a branch library, as is done in other cities of this size. The library idea now is "the library must go to the people, if the people can not come to the library."

No statistics of the use of reference books or books for general reading in the Library have ever been kept. It would probably nearly equal the number of books drawn for home use. This service is not confined to people of Burlington only; out of town visitors use it constantly and references are frequently looked up in response to inquiries by letter. Books have also been loaned to other libraries, when their use was desired by the librarians. We also have the privilege of borrowing from larger libraries in other cities. The ability to get books which it does not seem advisable to buy is a great convenience and much appreciated by borrowers as well as the librarian.

The children's department is generally filled to its seating capacity with readers. Some of Scott's and Cooper's novels in good editions have been purchased and placed there, and their circulation has been constant and gratifying. The present age limit for the withdrawal of books is ten years, but there is no limit for readers and all ages of children are seen reading or looking at pictures, gaining some knowledge and learning to value the Library. The children's librarian is ready to direct the choice of books, and her pretty bulletins with lists of books attract boys and girls to the better and more useful books.

The open shelves must probably remain under present conditions; if the knowledge of books so gained does not extend opportunities for confusion and loss to the Library, and possible evil by the ease with which books may be carried off without detection.

The only change of importance in the administration of the library is opening its doors for reading only on Sunday afternoons, from 2 to 6. This library has always followed a conservative course, adopting no new methods or lines of work until we are sure that they are best adapted to our conditions and the needs of the community. This change

seems to meet with approval from all who speak of it. There are more readers than on week days, some who can not well come at other times; some remain all the afternoon, most stay an hour or two to be succeeded by others.

Most Sunday visitors read only the lighter periodicals for recreation but the first thing the librarian was asked for was a Commentary on Romans, the next Cruden's Concordance, then a boy took Dombey and Son, read it all the afternoon, came the next day to take it home to finish reading it.

Respectfully submitted,

SARAH C. HAGAR, Librarian.

#### APPENDIX A.

##### CIRCULATION FOR 1905.

	Fiction and Juveniles.	Totals.
January .....	2,765	3,827
February .....	2,685	3,794
March .....	3,108	4,182
April .....	2,930	3,542
May .....	2,541	3,376
June .....	2,148	2,750
July .....	2,179	2,822
August .....	2,562	3,144
September .....	2,212	2,944
October .....	2,532	3,538
November .....	2,920	4,031
December .....	2,688	3,596
	<hr/> 31,270	<hr/> 41,546

#### APPENDIX B.

##### CIRCULATION FROM 1875.

	Fiction and Juveniles.	Totals.
1875 (open 131 days) .....		15,538
1876 .....		35,448
1877 .....	30,471	38,458
1878 .....	25,186	35,238



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1879 .....	21,809	33,077
1880 .....	19,579	29,432
1881 .....	19,212	28,262
1882 .....	18,308	26,438
1883 .....	17,092	25,576
1884 .....	15,027	20,173
1885 .....	20,489	29,475
1886 .....	27,337	37,753
1887 .....	26,917	37,933
1888 .....	28,701	41,948
1889 .....	29,032	43,464
1890 .....	30,303	45,828
1891 .....	30,983	46,387
1892 .....	31,599	47,203
1893 .....	27,621	42,184
1894 .....	28,740	43,942
1895 .....	33,082	48,762
1896 .....	36,363	52,829
1897 .....	37,198	53,391
1898 .....	38,511	52,456
1899 .....	38,329	52,005
1900 .....	36,864	49,433
1901 .....	33,293	44,002
1902 .....	31,330	42,874
1903 .....	28,586	40,158
1904 .....	30,555	42,042
1905 .....	31,083	41,683
1906 .....	30,924	42,667
1907 .....	31,270	41,552









# **Thirty Fifth Annual Report**

OF THE

## **TRUSTEES**

OF THE

### **Fletcher Free Library**

CARNEGIE BUILDING

### **Burlington, Vermont**

## **1908**

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BURLINGTON:  
FREE PRESS PRINTING CO.,  
PRINTERS, BINDERS, STATIONERS,  
1909.





# Thirty Fifth Annual Report

OF THE

## TRUSTEES

OF THE

### Fletcher Free Library

CARNEGIE BUILDING

Burlington, Vermont

1908

---

BURLINGTON:  
FREE PRESS PRINTING Co.,  
PRINTERS, BINDERS, STATIONERS,  
1909.

# THE FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY.

---

Founded in 1873, by Mrs. Mary L. Fletcher and Miss Mary  
M. Fletcher.

CARNEGIE BUILDING.

1904.

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## OFFICERS

### TRUSTEES OF THE LIBRARY.

M. H. BUCKHAM, President.  
Mrs. G. G. BENEDICT, Secretary.  
HENRY L. WARD, Treasurer.  
WILLIAM J. VAN PATTEN.  
MAYOR, *ex-officio*.

---

### TRUSTEES OF THE FLETCHER FUND.

JOEL H. GATES,  
E. HENRY POWELL,  
WALTER C. ISHAM.

---

### LIBRARIAN.

GEORGE DANA SMITH.

### ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN AND CATALOGUER.

MISS RUTH M. KIDDER.

### SECOND ASSISTANT.

MISS ELIZABETH A. LAPHAM.

### CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN AND GENERAL ASSISTANT.

MRS. SALLY W. FARRAR.

REPORT OF THE

**TRUSTEES OF THE FLETCHER FREE  
LIBRARY.**

---

*To the Honorable, the City Council, City of Burlington:*

GENTLEMEN:—The Trustees of the Fletcher Free Library have the honor to transmit to you herewith the report of the Librarian for the year 1908, containing the statistics of the Library as to additions, circulation, etc., and other matters of general interest.

The Trustees report with sorrow the death of Miss Sarah C. Hagar, which occurred on the 24th of June. She was appointed Librarian of the Fletcher Free Library in January, 1885, and for twenty-three years of continuous service she discharged the duties of the position with the utmost fidelity and enthusiasm.

Her strength began to fail early in the last year, but she refused to leave her post, or even to shorten her hours of labor until forced to do so by actual physical disability. She came to the Library for the last time on Friday, June 5th, less than three weeks before her death which brought a keen sense of personal loss, not only to her associates in the Library and to the Librarians of the State, but to the people of Burlington of all sorts and conditions and ages, whose interested friend and helper she had invariably been. In token of the great loss sustained by the Library and the public, the Library entrance and the desks inside were draped in black for a period of thirty days, and the Library was closed during the afternoon of her funeral, which was held on Friday, June 26th, from her late home on College street. Four trustees of the Library, President Buckham, Mayor Bigelow, Mr. Ward and Mr. Van Patten, served as honorary bearers, and the burial was in the family lot in Lake View Cemetery.



At a special meeting of the Trustees, held on July 6th, 1908, the following minute, expressive of their estimate of Miss Hagar's services to the Library and the community, was unanimously adopted:

"The Trustees of the Fletcher Free Library hereby express and put upon their record, their high estimate of the personal character and the professional services of their late Librarian, Miss Sarah C. Hagar; for twenty-three years she has devoted herself to the interests of the Library and its patrons with a zeal which has known no limit of time or effort; by placing her large acquaintance with books and their contents at the service alike of the mature student and the child, she has earned the respect of the one and the affection of the other; and our community owes to her memory a lasting debt of gratitude for the valuable work she has done in making the Library a help to the intelligence, the industries and the morality of our people."

The annual meeting of the Vermont Library Association, of which Miss Hagar was the founder, was held in Burlington the week following her death. Tributes to Miss Hagar's ability and self-sacrifice in her chosen work were offered by librarians and others present, and by several of the Trustees of this Library, and the following resolutions were adopted:

"The Vermont Library Association hereby expresses officially and for its members individually its sorrow and deep sense of loss in the death of Miss Sarah C. Hagar. She was our first and for ten years continuously our president; for twenty-three years Librarian of the largest public library in the State. In position she was a pioneer and leader, in her unassuming relationship to us, our friend and sympathizer.

"We acknowledge our indebtedness to her for her noble and self-forgetful example in work, for her broad and high ideals, and for assistance given ungrudgingly and without condescension. We rejoice that she was permitted such a long life of usefulness in which she delighted, and strength for work until almost the end."

Obituary notices of Miss Hagar appeared in the Burlington newspapers, and in a number of other papers in the State; in the *Hartford Courant*, in the Biennial Report of the Vermont Library Commission, and in the library periodicals—*Libraries* for August, 1908, and the *Library Journal* for December, 1908.

During the interregnum occasioned by Miss Hagar's illness and death the responsibility of the work of the Library devolved upon the Assistant Librarians, Miss Moore and Miss Kidder, who with Miss Lapham and a temporary assistant, discharged their duties to the entire satisfaction of the Trustees and of the public, so far as we know.

Mr. George Dana Smith was appointed Librarian July 6th, 1908, and entered upon his duties on the 1st of September. Mr. Smith was formerly a resident of Burlington, and for the past five years has held the position of Assistant Librarian in the Watkinson Library of Reference in Hartford, Conn. He brings to his work a thorough library training, a wide knowledge of books, systematic habits of work, and a strong desire to make the Library of the utmost service to the public. These qualifications, with his previous acquaintance with the people of Burlington, will enable him to carry on his work in the same spirit of helpfulness which under Miss Hagar became the traditional spirit of the Library, and the Trustees feel that the patrons of the Library are to be congratulated on his accession. Some proposed changes in the methods of the Library service are brought to your attention in the report of the Librarian. From the time of Mr. Smith's entrance upon his duties, September 1st, the opening of the Library on Sunday afternoons, discontinued during the summer, has been resumed, and the daily hours, shortened while the staff was smaller, have been fully restored.

A number of good photographs of scenery and reproductions of celebrated paintings and sculptures, purchased with the proceeds of fines for books overdue, have been framed and placed upon the walls of the Library to add to the attractiveness of the rooms; and by the kindness of Mr. Van Patten growing plants have been placed in the windows and on the mantels, which give pleasure not only to those employed in the Library, but to all who frequent it.

It may not be out of place to mention here the Institute for Librarians held in Burlington last summer (June 29-July 3), under the auspices of the State Library Commission, and in connection with the meeting of the State Library Association, to which allusion has already been made. An expert from outside the State was present, to give practical and technical instruction in matters pertaining to the management of libraries, and the conferences and discussions of the

Librarians in regard to their work were interesting and valuable. The experiment was so successful that the commission hope to make the Institute, or Summer School for Librarians, a permanent thing, and to hold it in Burlington, where the two large libraries and the University afford so many facilities for its work.

Respectfully submitted,

For the Trustees,

KATHARINE A. BENEDICT,

Secretary.

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## REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

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The Librarian's annual report for the year ending December 31, 1908, the thirty-fifth since the opening of the Library, and the first that I have brought before your Board, is respectfully submitted.

In the report of the Secretary of your Board a fitting tribute has been given to the memory of Miss Sarah C. Hagar. The present Librarian, however, claims the privilege of adding a few words of appreciation to that report. Such an untiring worker as Miss Hagar does not lay down her work without leaving much that cannot be readily, if ever, taken up by others. The gracious presence that for so many years made everybody feel welcome at the Library will long be missed. Scarcely a day passes that some one does not remind the Library staff of help and guidance received from Miss Hagar, while the Library itself is a lasting reminder of how much was in her heart and mind to do for the betterment of this city.

On September 1st I assumed the duties of Librarian here, and aside from the demands made upon my time by the usual routine of library work, I have been engaged chiefly in informing myself of the resources of the Library, its methods of administration, and in formulating plans for future work. My first annual report must necessarily be drawn largely from the records of my assistants.

During the year 940 volumes have been added to the catalogue of accessions, making the total number entered 33,039. The sources of the year's accessions were as follows: By purchase 844, by gift 96. Of the number purchased, 60 volumes were to replace worn out copies of works in constant demand. Among the more important additions were the following:



Bewick, T.—History of British Birds, 2 vols.

“ “ General History of Quadrupeds.

Microcosm of London, repr. from edn. 1808, 3 vols.

Warwick, Countess of, Warwick Castle and its Earls, 2 vols.

Lea, H. C.—History of the Inquisition of Spain, 4 vols.

Haustaux, G.—Contemporary France, vols. 1-3.

Jewish Encyclopedia, 12 vols.

Bailey, L. H. *ed.*—Cyclopedia of American Agriculture, vols. 1-3.

Rand, McNally & Co., Indexed Atlas of the World, 2 vols.

Expositor's Bible, 26 vols.

Pollen, Mrs. J. H.—Seven Centuries of Lace.

Sparrow, W. S.—Women Painters of the World.

The list of periodicals received currently included 71 titles by subscription and 14 by gift. One hundred and fifty-five volumes of periodicals have been bound during the year.

All of the books purchased have been catalogued with the exception of a few received since December 20th. The total number now catalogued is 24,060 volumes, representing 17,866 titles and 47,758 cards. In addition to the catalogue, a semi-annual bulletin has been issued for free distribution, a typewritten list of new books posted in the Library, and a list published frequently in the *Burlington Free Press*.

The inventory for the year shows 174 volumes missing, of which 47 are fiction, 42 non-fiction, and 85 children's books.

The books given out for home use in 1908 numbered 42,688, an increase of 1,136 over last year. The circulation of fiction and books for the young was 31,145, a slight decrease from last year. The books most called for have probably been Theodora Peck's "Sword of Dundee," Professor George H. Palmer's "Life of Alice Freeman Palmer," and Drs. Worcester and McComb's "Religion and Medicine." The Library can do very little towards supplying the demand for the much advertised current fiction; 95 titles have been added this year, with duplicate copies of all that seemed to be of any lasting worth or interest. To supply more satisfactorily the eager demand for the latest novel, it will be necessary to follow the example of many public libraries by providing a duplicate collection of fiction for circulation upon payment of a small charge per day. The books are loaned only to Library card holders, or upon deposit, and as soon as the books have paid for them-

selves they are placed upon the free shelves. This system has proved successful elsewhere, and would doubtless be acceptable to a large class of readers here. It would relieve the Library of the necessity of using any of its income for duplicate fiction, and would considerably enlarge the service of the Library.

In last year's report your Librarian called attention to the increase of population in the city, and commented upon the lack of a corresponding increase in the circulation of the Library. This is a condition that ought soon to be relieved by the establishment of delivery stations, to be kept open one or two evenings a week, one at Lakeside Park and another in the vicinity of Archibald street. The Library could thus extend its service by furnishing good and useful books to a class of readers either unable to come, or not sufficiently interested to come to the central Library now.

The reference work has continued practically the same as in other years. In addition to frequent requests at the desk for assistance, many have availed themselves of the open shelves, and there is a growing use of the catalogue for reference purposes. As situated now, we are not able to keep statistics of the books used in the Library either for general reading or reference work. That the number is large, is evident from the constant use of the reading tables, which are usually filled afternoons and evenings to their seating capacity.

Requests from other libraries and out-of-town literary clubs have been received for the loan of books on various subjects, but more particularly on the early history of Vermont and Lake Champlain. Owing to the interest of Burlington readers in the approaching Tercentenary of Lake Champlain, we have not been able always to supply books on that subject to non-residents.

The use of the children's room gradually increases without special effort on the part of the Library. Seventy-four volumes have been added to the children's department this year. Bulletins illustrating anniversary days, and giving attractive reading-lists have been duly provided. Nearly every afternoon the stereoscopic views are in constant use. Such a crowd of eager, restless children often requires discipline and more individual attention than we are able to give at all hours of the day. If it can be arranged later to have all of the children's books charged and discharged in the room itself, instead of the main desk, it would be possible to keep an attendant there most

of the time, and so maintain a more even discipline. As one object of the children's department is to supplement the work of the schools, I would suggest that some limit be given to the number of books that a child under fourteen be allowed to exchange per week when school is in session. There are a number of children now that exchange books from four to six times every week. So much pleasure reading as the loan of so many books implies, must be a serious interference with the work of the average child in school.

On September 20th, we resumed opening the Library on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 6 for reading only. No account has been kept of the attendance, but for the past two months it must have averaged upwards of seventy-five. The real object of Sunday opening is evidently not fully understood by all, as there seems to be a tendency, particularly among some of the young people to use the Library on that day as a meeting-place for social purposes rather than for reading. To prevent such abuse of the privileges of the Library it has been necessary to enforce strict regulations regarding conversation and noise. Some member of the staff, and an attendant especially engaged for the day, are on duty each Sunday.

Few changes have been made in administration during the year. Since October 1st the stack room has been kept open during all library hours, with the exception of Sunday, when books are not circulated. On that day, as many books as may be desired, are given out upon request, for use in the reference or children's room.

A simple system of account-keeping has been opened and will be somewhat extended the coming year. It will be itemized sufficiently to enable us to render more complete records and statistics than at present. As authorized by vote in your last regular meeting, we shall soon begin using the Newark charging system, slightly modified to meet our needs. By making this change we hope to give quicker service at the charging desk, and by the more accurate record than the slip system now in use gives, be able to reduce our losses. A new registration of borrowers, which has been needed for some time, will be required.

At a previous meeting attention was called to the overcrowded condition of both stack and reference rooms. Additional shelving is much needed. If funds are available for the purpose, the stack room



should be completed or provision made in one of the gallery rooms for the storing of a considerable number of the less used books.

I desire to thank the president and other members of the Board of Trustees for their kindly interest and counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE DANA SMITH,

Librarian.

#### APPENDIX A.

##### CIRCULATION FOR 1908.

	Fiction and Juveniles.	Totals.
January .....	3,083	4,217
February .....	3,199	4,541
March .....	3,182	4,364
April .....	2,585	3,566
May .....	1,908	2,698
June .....	2,060	2,667
July .....	2,612	3,221
August .....	2,686	3,394
September .....	2,284	3,111
October .....	2,680	3,793
November .....	2,490	3,770
December .....	2,376	3,346
	<hr/> 31,145	<hr/> 42,688

#### APPENDIX B.

##### CIRCULATION FROM 1875.

	Fiction and Juveniles.	Totals.
1875 (open 131 days) .....		15,538
1876 .....		35,448
1877 .....	30,471	38,458
1878 .....	25,186	35,238
1879 .....	21,809	33,077
1880 .....	19,579	29,432
1881 .....	19,212	28,262



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1882	.....	18,308	26,438
1883	.....	17,092	25,576
1884	.....	15,027	20,173
1885	.....	20,489	29,475
1886	.....	27,337	37,753
1887	.....	26,917	37,933
1888	.....	28,701	41,948
1889	.....	29,032	43,464
1890	.....	30,303	45,828
1891	.....	30,983	46,387
1892	.....	31,599	47,203
1893	.....	27,621	42,184
1894	.....	28,740	43,942
1895	.....	33,082	48,762
1896	.....	36,363	52,829
1897	.....	37,198	53,391
1898	.....	38,511	52,456
1899	.....	38,329	52,005
1900	.....	36,864	49,433
1901	.....	33,293	44,002
1902	.....	31,330	42,874
1903	.....	28,586	40,158
1904	.....	30,555	42,042
1905	.....	31,083	41,683
1906	.....	30,924	42,667
1907	.....	31,270	41,552
1908	.....	31,145	42,688





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**Thirty Sixth Annual Report**

OF THE

**TRUSTEES**

OF THE

**Fletcher Free Library**

**CARNEGIE BUILDING**

**Burlington, Vermont**

**1909**





# Thirty Sixth Annual Report

OF THE

## TRUSTEES

OF THE

### Fletcher Free Library

CARNEGIE BUILDING

Burlington, Vermont

1909

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BURLINGTON:  
FREE PRESS PRINTING COMPANY,  
1910.

R J W.

# THE FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY.

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Founded in 1873, by Mrs. Mary L. Fletcher and Miss  
Mary M. Fletcher.

CARNEGIE BUILDING, 1904.

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## OFFICERS

### TRUSTEES OF THE LIBRARY.

M. H. BUCKHAM, President.

MRS. G. G. BENEDICT, Secretary.

HENRY L. WARD, Treasurer.

WILLIAM J. VAN PATTEN.

MAYOR, *ex-officio*.

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### TRUSTEES OF THE FLETCHER FUND.

E. HENRY POWELL,

WALTER C. ISHAM,

CLARENCE L. SMITH.

---

### LIBRARIAN.

GEORGE DANA SMITH.

### ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN AND CATALOGUER.

MISS RUTH M. KIDDER.

### SECOND ASSISTANT.

HARRY H. BROWN.

### CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN AND GENERAL ASSISTANT.

MRS. SALLY W. FARRAR.

### JANITOR.

EDGAR R. TOOLES.

## REPORT OF THE FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY.

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The Librarian's annual report for the year ending December 31, 1909, the thirty-sixth since the opening of the Library, and the second that I have brought before your Board, is respectfully submitted.

Our aim throughout the year has been to continue the work in the same spirit that has characterized the administration of the Library in the past, introducing only such changes and new features in administration and method as seemed to promise better service and increased efficiency. The more important of these new features, of which a detailed account will be given further on in the report, are as follows:—A new registration of borrowers; introduction of a modified form of the Newark charging system; establishment of a pay duplicate collection of fiction; circulation of the unbound numbers of periodicals; and an exhibition of field and garden flowers from April to October.

During the year 1,228 volumes have been added to the catalogue of accessions, making the total number entered 34,267. The sources of the additions were as follows: By purchase 1,005, by gift 181, by exchange 7, transferred from the pay duplicate collection 35. Of the number purchased 75 volumes were to replace worn out copies.

We have endeavored to buy the best of the new books of the year that seemed most needed for general use, omitting some of the higher-priced ones that can doubtless be secured later at greatly reduced prices. Mrs. Katharine A. Benedict purchased for us in London 10 volumes of old and somewhat rare books to be used as examples of early printing and bookmaking, for exhibition purposes. Fuller mention of these books will be made in the January Bulletin. A suitable case will be provided for them eventually, and given a conspicuous place in the reference room. In accordance with your vote at the last annual meeting a pay duplicate collection of fiction has been started. We began in April with twenty volumes, adding others as the demand increased. Up to December 31st, we had purchased 89 volumes and had



made 1,439 loans at five cents for four days, subject to a fine of two cents a day after the fourth day. The net receipts have already paid for the entire collection, and as the books are placed on the free shelves when they pay for themselves, we shall soon have added 89 volumes of fiction without expense to the Library. The foregoing speaks for itself of the popularity of this method of supplying new fiction to our readers. The collection has not received the usual Library advertising, and no one is solicited to take one of these books. It is simply understood that the duplicate copies are for the purpose of accommodating readers who are willing to pay the nominal charge and get a fresh, clean copy of the last novel without waiting weeks, if not months, for it. The success of the experiment promises well for its continuance with an increase in the number of titles.

The cataloguing has been kept up, only a few volumes received in December remaining uncatalogued. The total number now catalogued is 25,652 volumes, representing 18,512 titles and 49,407 cards. In addition to the catalogue, the publication of the semi-annual Bulletin for free distribution has been continued. A selected list of books on Nature Study, Gardening, Outdoor Life and Poultry was also issued, and lists of the new books have been given in the local papers, and posted in the Library.

On the first of last January a new registration was begun, and has resulted in 3,890 applications for the privileges of the Library, for which borrower's cards have been duly issued. This slight requirement on the part of our borrowers, so long accustomed to the slip system, has been acceded to willingly, in nearly every case. It has not, as might have been expected, caused any decrease in the circulation. On the other hand, borrowers' cards seem to have developed a feeling of membership in the Library not previously enjoyed. A new registration was rendered necessary by the Newark charging system, which we began using early in the year. By making this change in the charging system we are able to give much quicker service at the desk, and at the same time have a more accurate record of the circulation. It has been a long and somewhat arduous process to get it into full operation, owing to the length of time it took to write 30,000 book cards without extra help.

The classed books, upwards of 12,000 volumes, have all been reshelfed to follow the order of the decimal classification, a long needed and much appreciated change in the arrangement of the upper stack.

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The Library was open for circulation 302 days, and on Sunday afternoons for reading from January 1st to April 15th.

The total circulation for the year was 61,288, a gain of 18,600 over last year, and 7,897 more than any previous year in the history of the Library. The new registration, with somewhat increased facilities for getting at the new books has evidently helped to raise the circulation. It has frequently happened that the demand for the new books, including non-fiction, has been much greater than our supply. At such times we have filled the new book shelves with older books, selecting attractive titles from all classes, a generous proportion of course being fiction. By this method a considerable number of the old and half-forgotten books have gained a new lease of life. The circulation of current numbers of unbound magazines, which began as an occasional and special privilege, has been so much appreciated that next year the Library will provide duplicate copies of some of the higher-priced ones especially for home use, while back numbers of nearly all of the others will be used for general circulation. Although there has been a gratifying increase in the use of the Library *this* year, we feel that it can be still further increased when the day comes that it is possible for us to establish delivery stations in different parts of the city.

Statistics are not kept of the many demands made upon us from the reference room. In addition to the work done for the several clubs and general information seekers, the school children make constant demands upon us. Some effort has been made to instruct the High School students in the use of periodical indexes and general works of reference.

The Library has endeavored to cooperate with the public and parochial schools as far as its resources would permit, by supplying books for supplementary reading. 650 volumes were distributed among 28 of the public school rooms this year. The extension of this work deserves more consideration than we have been able to give it in the past. It requires duplicate copies of a considerable number of juvenile books. As the selection can be largely our own, or that of specialists on books for the young, it affords one of the best opportunities that we have for assisting children in acquiring a taste for good and systematic reading.

The children's department has continued its usual activities. The teachers in the grades and parochial schools have given us rather more opportunity for working with the children than in some previous years.



They have kept us informed of subjects given out for compositions or special study, thus enabling us to reserve for use in the children's room books on the required subjects, and many are the compositions that have been written there this year.

By request of the Nature Club last spring we announced the coming of all birds seen in this locality, by displaying colored pictures of them. Dr. H. F. Perkins had already presented to the Library a series of large placards giving the musical notation of several of the birds' songs and these were used with the pictures. The interest shown by the children in our efforts to make the Library attractive to them has been most encouraging.

At the suggestion of Mr. W. J. Van Patten, and largely through his generosity in furnishing specimens, the Library gave an exhibit of field and garden flowers, according to season from April to October. Two large tables were placed in the entrance hall and were kept filled with flowers during these months. Contributions were received from many gardens, and as the interest in the exhibition grew from week to week, it proved to be a satisfactory form of library advertising. People who seldom, if ever, came to the Library, came more than once to see the flowers and often found that we had books they wanted to read. The specimens of flowers were labelled with the English and Latin names and books on flowers and gardening were conveniently near at hand for all who cared to know more of a flower than its name. Thus the exhibition became educational as well as decorative. Acknowledgments are due the local papers for several notices of the exhibition. Over thirty varieties of the peony were exhibited one week, and at another time nearly as many varieties of the iris. An herb garden, contributed by Miss Evelyn Benedict, was of unusual interest, many of our visitors never having seen before such a collection of cultivated herbs. Through the courtesy of the Lumiere North American Co. Limited, an exhibition of color photography was given for ten days in October. Nearly forty of their Autochrome plates were loaned to the Library for this purpose.

The Library is indebted to Mrs. Chester Griswold for a large Dutch rug which almost covers the floor of the entrance hall. A gift of such value and of so much service is appreciated by all. It not only makes the entrance to the Library attractive, but gives a much desired quiet that is felt throughout the building. Gifts of volumes and

pamphlets were received from various donors, for which grateful acknowledgment has been made.

Large photographs of Mr. Andrew Carnegie and of Miss Mary M. Fletcher have been purchased and placed on the walls of the Library, where they face all who come to enjoy the advantages made possible by their generosity. Some of the shelving formerly in the old Library building has been put together and set up for use in the south and west gallery rooms. A thermostat has been placed on the heating apparatus.

Several changes have been made in the Library staff during the year. On December 31, 1908, Miss Lizzie R. Moore severed her connection with the Library. At the annual meeting the following new appointments were made: Miss Ruth M. Kidder, Assistant Librarian and Cataloguer; Mrs. Sally W. Farrar, Children's Librarian and General Assistant. On April 1st Mr. Edgar R. Tooles succeeded Mr. Edward Hudson as janitor. In September, Miss Elizabeth Lapham tendered her resignation which was accepted to take effect November 1st. Mr. Harry H. Brown after giving his services one month on trial was appointed to succeed Miss Lapham as second assistant. In August, Mrs. Agnes E. Blanchard of South Norwalk, Conn., came and worked with the cataloguer four weeks, giving her time for instruction received. Miss Lizzie E. Langdon is now serving an apprenticeship which will qualify her for substitute work. In September Hon. W. J. Bigelow, who was elected on March 18, 1909, a member of the Board of Library Commissioners, resigned from the Board, owing to his removal from the city. At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees on November 29th, Mr. H. L. Ward was elected to succeed Mr. Bigelow.

I desire to commend to your Board the faithful service of my assistants, and to thank the president and other members of the Board for counsel and kindly consideration received during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE DANA SMITH,  
Librarian.



## APPENDIX.

## CIRCULATION STATISTICS, 1909.

Magazines and general works .....	1,784
Philosophy .....	251
Religion .....	455
Sociology .....	624
Language .....	23
Natural Science .....	561
Useful arts .....	745
Fine arts .....	727
Literature .....	2,128
History .....	1,372
Travel .....	1,176
Biography .....	989
Fiction (including juvenile) .....	44,293
Fiction (Pay Duplicate Collection) .....	1,439
Juvenile classed books .....	4,721
<hr/>	
Total .....	61,288





Duplicate  
disregarded  
in cataloging

# **Thirty-Seventh Annual Report**

OF THE

## **TRUSTEES**

OF THE

### **Fletcher Free Library**

CARNEGIE BUILDING

**Burlington, Vermont**

**1910**





# Thirty-Seventh Annual Report

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## TRUSTEES

OF THE

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Burlington, Vermont

1910

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BURLINGTON:

FREE PRESS PRINTING COMPANY.

1911.

*Handwritten mark*

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Founded in 1873, by Mrs. Mary L. Fletcher and Miss  
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CARNEGIE BUILDING, 1904.

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## OFFICERS

### TRUSTEES OF THE LIBRARY.

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HENRY L. WARD, Treasurer.

EDMUND C. MOWER.

MAYOR, *Ex-Officio*.

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MRS. SALLY W. FARRAR.

### JANITOR.

EDGAR R. TOOLES.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY.

---

*To the Honorable, the City Council, City of Burlington:*

GENTLEMEN:—The Trustees of the Fletcher Free Library have the honor to transmit to you herewith the report of the Librarian for the year 1910, containing the statistics of the Library as to circulation, additions, etc., and detailed information in regard to its work.

The principal event of the year is one which we chronicle with great sorrow—the death of President M. H. Buckham, the Chairman of our Board and the last survivor of the original Board of Trustees named by the founders of the Library. Identified with the Library from its beginning, always mindful of its welfare, its spokesman before the public when occasion required, wise in counsel, self-sacrificing and considerate, the Trustees feel that they have met with a heavy personal loss which they share with the whole community. At a special meeting of the Board held December 23, 1910, the following minute was adopted and ordered placed on the records:

Matthew Henry Buckham, President of the University of Vermont and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Fletcher Free Library, died on the 29th of November, 1910.

He was the sole survivor of the original Trustees named by the founders of the Library in 1874, and since 1896 he had served as Chairman of the Board.

In the midst of his heavy and exacting responsibilities he always gave much time and thought to the interests of the Library, from the beginning, in the selection and purchase of books and the plans and details involved in launching the new enterprise and opening the new Library to the public, to the latest meeting of the Trustees held only a few days before his last illness.

His fine culture, his wide knowledge of books, his sound judgment, his practical wisdom in affairs, his uniform patience



and courtesy, his estimate of the function of a public library and its value to the community, and his high conception of the trust accepted by those who administer it, made him for many years the leading member of this Board.

It is with sincere sorrow that his associates place on record this expression of their affectionate admiration, and their sense of the irreparable loss suffered in his death, not only by the Library, but by every good interest in this community.

At the same meeting Judge Edmund C. Mower was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of President Buckham, and his associates feel assured that by his acceptance of the trust the Library has secured another wise and faithful officer. Judge Mower has served as a member of the Library Commission, and is thus already familiar with some aspects of the administration of the Library.

Mr. W. J. Van Patten's term of office as Library Commissioner having expired in April he has been re-elected to represent the Trustees on the Commission for the two years ending April 1, 1912.

The Burlington Art Club, an organization of women and young people of both sexes, applied in the summer for the use of the East room in the second story of the Library building. The Trustees deeming the study and practice of Art to be one of the legitimate uses of a public library building, so long as it should not interfere with the comfort and convenience of the readers in the Library, granted as an experiment, the free use of the room for three months, under such rules and restrictions as the Librarian should prescribe. The room was occupied by the club for three months practically without annoyance from noise to those in the reading room below, after the first two or three days while the furniture and accessories were being put in place. These are still there, but the lack of any means of heating the room of course precludes its use in the winter. If a further occupancy of the room is agreed upon, the club is to pay a rental of five (\$5) dollars a month, for such time as the room is in actual use. The Trustees have always been very desirous that the rooms in the second story of our building should be finished, supplied with heating apparatus, and thus made available for use at any season of the year. We understand that this could be done at a moderate cost, and it would certainly make the building much more useful.

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A framed photograph of Miss Sarah C. Hagar has been presented to the Library by Miss Frances M. Hobart and other members of the State Library Association and hangs over the desk in the main room. This is an enlarged copy of a photograph taken by Miss Hobart in Miss Hagar's garden, and has elicited many expressions of pleasure from visitors and patrons of the Library who remember Miss Hagar's attentive kindness in former years.

There have been no changes in the Library staff during the year, and the Trustees are glad to believe that under its present efficient management the Library is of greater service to the public than ever before. They feel that the spirit of service which has long been the tradition of the Library is still maintained, and that it steadily grows more effective through the use of modern methods and the growing experience of those in charge. The story of the largely increased circulation, and of the library extension work, so to speak, contained in the Librarian's report, seems to establish this view, and we commend the report, with all its facts and suggestions, to your favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

For the Trustees,

KATHARINE A. BENEDICT, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN  
OF THE  
**FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY.**

The Librarian's annual report for the year ending December 31, 1910, the thirty-seventh since the opening of the Library, and the third that I have brought before your Board is respectfully submitted.

It is with a feeling of regret and an abiding sense of loss that the present report is begun, owing to the death on the 29th of November of Matthew Henry Buckham, who had been a member of the Board of Trustees from the founding of the Library. His unfailing interest in the Library, his wise counsel in methods of administration, and his true estimate of the permanent in the world of books united to make his long service to the Library of highest worth. The impress of his fine scholarship and wide experience is stamped upon the Library in so many ways that it promises to be a legacy for all who shall come to make the best use of the Library in future years. His kindly consideration of the aims and needs of the Library staff will long be treasured in pleasant remembrance.

I am pleased to report to your Board that the previous activities of the Library have been continued throughout the year, with an encouraging increase in the use of the Library as the following statistics will show:

The Library was open 305 days and the circulation was 69,897, a gain of 8,609 or 14% over last year, and 16,506 more than any previous year in the history of the Library. The average daily circulation was 225; the largest daily circulation was 472 on December 3rd; the smallest was 93 on May 3rd. The circulation by classes and a comparison with last year will be found in the appendix. In some of the schools the books that we supplied for supplementary reading have been given out for home use also, but no account has been kept. Several of the teachers have expressed a willingness to favor us the coming year with a report of the number loaned by them, so that we can include such circulation in our next report.

We began the year with a registration of 3,890 which has been increased since then by 1,503 new names, making the total registration



of borrowers at the close of the year 5,393. Some of the cards are already out of use, owing to death, the removal from the city of the card-holders, or for other natural reasons, but it is probably not too high an estimate to say that a fourth of the residents of the city have drawn books from the Library during the year. The Newark charging system, introduced two years ago, has proved very satisfactory and has relieved us of many annoying inaccuracies at the desk.

The additions were as follows:—By purchase 1,106 volumes and 117 pictures; by gift 322 volumes; by exchange 2 volumes; transferred from the pay duplicate collection 115 volumes; making a total of 1,545 added to the catalogue of accessions which now numbers 35,812. There was an increase of 101 in the number of volumes purchased. We are obliged every year to withdraw a considerable number of books either too much soiled or worn for further use. This year the number was 324. It is not necessary to replace all of these books, as new titles, particularly of most of the fiction, will be more acceptable to the majority of readers, but there are certain standard works of fiction and of other classes of literature that are of sufficient worth to be in constant demand, which means that every year a portion of our income must be used to replace wornout copies. 120 volumes were purchased this year for that purpose. We endeavor to practice economy in buying, consequently many of the higher-priced books of the year published *net*, which are supplied librarians only at a discount of 10% off, are not yet on our shelves. Most of these books can be bought later at a liberal discount and unless they are much called for and needed for immediate use it has seemed expedient to defer getting them until we can do so more advantageously. Requests are often made for new books, all of which are referred to the Book Committee for approval, and in nearly every instance the books are purchased. The additions this year have covered a wide range of subjects. Practical books on the common topics of every day life have such a strong appeal to the general reader that we have tried to provide a generous supply of such books. In addition to the many interesting works of Biography, Travel, Philosophy and Religion, we have included others on Missions, Conservation, Practical Farming, Architecture and Building, Painting and Designing, Cooking and Home Economics, Socialism, Electricity, Aviation, Business Methods, New Thought, Modernism, etc.



The subscription list of periodicals now includes 103 titles, 78 received by subscription and 25 by gift. Duplicate copies of seven of the most popular magazines are taken for current circulation and back numbers of all the magazines are allowed to be taken out for home use. The popularity of this privilege is shown by the increase of 466 in the circulation of magazines this year.

One hundred and thirty-four volumes were added to the Pay Duplicate collection, and 115 volumes transferred to the free shelves, leaving 70 volumes for rental, all of which will be transferred to the free shelves as soon as new copies can be supplied, the entire collection having paid for itself. We receive much commendation for supplying duplicate copies of the new fiction at such a slight charge. There was an increase in the rentals this year of 1,844.

Of the new books of the year those probably called for most were *The Rosary*, by Florence Barclay; *the Spell of Italy*, by Caroline Atwater; *Cooking for Two*, by Janet M. Hill; *The Blue Bird*, by Maurice Maeterlinck.

Four thousand, two hundred and ninety-four books have been repaired in the Library. We are now able to make quite durable repairs upon many of the books, but if our circulation continues to increase, the wear and tear upon the books will be so much greater that more will have to be sent to the bindery than at present. Four hundred and seventy volumes, including magazines, were bound last year at a total cost of \$241.15. The cost per volume ranged from 25 cents to \$1.50, the average cost being 51 cents.

Practically all of the books purchased this year have been catalogued. The number now catalogued is 27,688 volumes, representing 19,166 titles and 51,064 cards. The semi-annual bulletin for free distribution has been published as usual. A four-paged folder giving a list of books for Christmas reading was published in December. One hundred copies of this list and the Bulletin were distributed among Vermont libraries. Lists of the more important new books have been given in the local papers and also posted in the Library.

Our willingness to furnish books for supplementary use in the schools is now so generally understood by the teachers that we have been able to send out 875 books, 850 stereographs and 66 pictures, distributed among twenty-four rooms. In some of the schools, as stated before, the books are also used for home reading. In the Thayer and

Champlain Schools, because of the distance from the Library, this privilege is much appreciated. At the request of the teachers, books on special subjects have been reserved in the children's room for use in the Library by the children. One history class in particular has spent many hours in the Library among the works of the great historians which we have held in reserve for them.

The children's room seems to grow in popularity every year. After school hours the tables are usually well filled with young readers, an eager, restless crowd requiring a good deal of attention and occasional discipline. We regret to report that occasional thefts occur in the children's room as well as in the main library. In one instance a stolen book was found in possession of a little girl in school. By the aid of the teacher and truant officer the book was returned to the Library and the child brought before Judge Mower. Considering the age of the child and that it was a first offense, no penalty was enforced, but a severe reprimand was given.

In the reading room mutilations frequently occur and a magazine is sometimes missing. In the main library several books have evidently been stolen outright. Through the courtesy of a second-hand dealer we have recovered 17 volumes of fiction, but were unable to obtain any clue to the persons who stole them. As alert and watchful as the staff may be, it is simply impossible to watch everybody who goes to the shelves. It is almost discouraging to feel that as free as the Library is in every way, there are yet some who are abusing its privileges.

The reference room has had its full quota of readers. Every year several new books are added to the reference shelves. The new edition of the Britannica would be a serviceable addition for the coming year. We have supplemented our reference work several times this year by inter-library loans. Books have been received from the Boston Public Library and the N. Y. State Library, to accommodate readers with books seldom found outside the larger collections. On the other hand, we have been able to favor several Vermont libraries with the loan of books from our shelves.

It is very gratifying to report that in co-operation with Miss Julia Smith, Supt. of the Neighborhood House, we were able to open a reading-room there in March, which was kept open three evenings a week for two months. The room was closed during the summer, opening again in November. The Library has supplied the books and the Neighbor-



hood House itself has borne the expense of keeping the room open, Mrs. Sally W. Farrar and Mrs. E. C. Keech being engaged for that purpose. They have been successful with Miss Smith's assistance in interesting a goodly number of boys and girls, many of whom the Library could reach in no other way. Story-telling, reading aloud, and playing games are some of the features that tend to make the room an attractive and popular place. The experiment of circulating books from there has been tried since November with satisfactory results. This our first venture in branch work promises well for the extension of the Library's usefulness. It is to be regretted that our resources will not permit of the establishment in other parts of the city of similar rooms well supplied with books and with competent assistants in charge.

The exhibition of field and garden flowers included 448 varieties of wild flowers and 200 varieties of those cultivated in gardens. To mention all who contributed specimens would make a long list of names. The greater part of the wild flowers were brought in by Mrs. F. H. Walker, Mrs. J. J. Flynn, Mrs. G. I. Forbes and Mr. Lucius Bigelow, and the garden flowers came largely from Mr. W. J. Van Patten and Mrs. G. I. Forbes. We are indebted to friends in Hartford, Conn., for a box of mountain laurel which attracted a good deal of attention, many of the young people never having seen any of it before. A weekly bulletin of all varieties received appeared in the local papers. Much to our surprise we learned that this list was of interest in some of the surrounding towns and we received callers who had read of the exhibition and came to the Library from out of town expressly to see it. This in addition to the local interest which was often expressed in terms of commendation, helped to make the care of the exhibition worth while. It was a good deal of work to keep so many vases clean, the water fresh and all of the specimens labeled with both English and Latin names. Thanks are due Mrs. J. J. Flynn for constant help in classifying the wild flowers. The exhibition has grown in the two seasons that we have had it to be such an attractive and educational feature of the Library during the summer months that we can ill afford to dispense with it, unless compelled to do so by the pressure of other duties.

The Library was represented by the Librarian at the meeting of the State Board held at Johnson, Vt., in April, and at the annual meeting of the Vermont Library Association held at St. Johnsbury in June. At

the latter meeting the Librarian gave a paper on "The Need of Books on Practical Subjects for Small Libraries."

We are indebted to local papers for courtesies received and to several interested friends of the Library for valuable gifts of useful volumes and pamphlets.

No changes have occurred in the staff. Miss Alice R. Wright has qualified herself for substitute work by serving an apprenticeship, and is at our service whenever needed. The success and usefulness of a library always depend largely upon the attitude of the staff to their work, and it gives me pleasure to express my appreciation of the willing service given by my assistants and of their genuine interest in the growth of the Library.

I am grateful to your Board for the kindly consideration received, and for your interest and generous support in matters of administration.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE DANA SMITH,

Librarian.

#### APPENDIX.

CIRCULATION STATISTICS.	1909	1910
Magazines and general works .....	1,784	2,250
Philosophy .....	251	373
Religion .....	455	559
Sociology .....	624	693
Language .....	23	51
Natural Science .....	561	644
Useful arts .....	745	801
Fine arts .....	727	831
Literature .....	2,128	2,415
History .....	1,372	1,239
Travel .....	1,176	1,381
Biography .....	989	1,015
Fiction (including juvenile) .....	44,293	47,854
Fiction (Pay Duplicate Collection) .....	1,439	3,283
Juvenile classed books .....	4,721	6,508
Total.....	61,288	69,897









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# **Thirty-Eighth Annual Report**

OF THE

## **TRUSTEES**

OF THE

### **Fletcher Free Library**

CARNEGIE BUILDING

**Burlington, Vermont**

**1911**





# Thirty-Eighth Annual Report

OF THE

## TRUSTEES

OF THE

### Fletcher Free Library

CARNEGIE BUILDING

Burlington, Vermont

1911

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BURLINGTON:  
FREE PRESS PRINTING Co.,  
1912.

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# THE FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY.

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Founded in 1873, by Mrs. Mary L. Fletcher and Miss  
Mary M. Fletcher.

CARNEGIE BUILDING, 1904.

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## OFFICERS.

### TRUSTEES OF THE LIBRARY.

WILLIAM J. VAN PATTEN, President.  
MRS. G. G. BENEDICT, Secretary.  
HENRY L. WARD, Treasurer.  
EDMUND C. MOWER.  
MAYOR, *Ex-Officio*.

### TRUSTEES OF THE FLETCHER FUND.

WALTER C. ISHAM,  
CLARENCE L. SMITH,  
MERTON C. GRANDY,

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### LIBRARIAN.

GEORGE DANA SMITH.

### ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN AND CATALOGUER.

MISS RUTH M. KIDDER.

### SECOND ASSISTANT.

HARRY H. BROWN.

### CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN AND GENERAL ASSISTANT.

MRS. SALLY W. FARRAR.

### JANITOR.

EDGAR R. TOOLES.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY.

*To the Honorable, the City Council, City of Burlington:*

GENTLEMEN:—The Trustees of the Fletcher Free Library in transmitting to you the report of the Librarian, beg leave to invite your attention to the statistics therein contained, especially to the largely increased circulation during the year, and the pains that have been taken to furnish books and pictures, or stereographs, to the public schools, and to make the Library serve the community in every way practicable with the means at its command.

Since the last annual report the Library has received from Mrs. Emerson H. Liscum the gift of a fine bronze tablet commemorative of her husband, General Emerson H. Liscum. This tablet, containing a medallion portrait of General Liscum and appropriate inscriptions, ornaments the east wall of the main hall of the building. It was formally presented and dedicated, April 28th, before a company which filled the hall, and which included Governor Mead and his staff, the Mayor and other city officials, officers of the Tenth U. S. Cavalry, representatives of the patriotic societies, and others. Gen. Theodore S. Peck presented the tablet on behalf of Mrs. Liscum, who was present, and Mr. Van Patten accepted it on behalf of the Trustees. The tablet was unveiled by Miss Theodora Peck.

A fine photographic portrait of President Buckham, one of the original Trustees of the Library and Chairman of the Board since 1896, has been procured by the Trustees and hangs upon the wall opposite the main entrance door, a constant reminder of the debt the Library owes to one who was from its beginning its wise counselor and devoted friend.

A framed colored photograph of John Godfrey Saxe has recently been presented to the Library by Mrs. Viola Whitcomb and will be given a suitable place. The Burlington Art Club which occupied one of the upper rooms last year removed to other quarters in the spring.



There is little else to report outside the ordinary routine of which the Librarian has given a thorough resume in his admirable, though too modest report, for which we again bespeak your careful consideration. That the rapidly increasing use of the Library in its various departments—the reading and reference room, the children's room, and the extension work through the public schools and the Neighborhood House, besides the large circulation of borrowed books—is due to the ability and fidelity of the Librarian and his obliging and capable assistants, of course goes without saying; but perhaps the Trustees may be allowed to say for once that in their belief this community owes no small debt to the intelligent, courteous and efficient service rendered by the officials of the Fletcher Free Library.

Respectfully submitted,

For the Trustees,

KATHARINE A. BENEDICT, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN  
OF THE  
**FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY.**

The Librarian's annual report for the year ending December 31, 1911, the thirty-eighth since the opening of the Library and the fourth that I have brought before your Board is respectfully submitted.

I am pleased to report to you again that the year has been one of progress and substantial gain as the following record and statistics will show.

The Library was open 305½ days with a total circulation of 75,387, a gain of 5,490 over last year. The average daily circulation was 250.69 vols.; the highest daily circulation being 516 on March 11th, and the smallest 104 on October 31st. The circulation by classes and a comparison with last year is given in a supplementary table.

Twelve hundred eleven new borrowers have been registered and given cards, making the total registration 6,604. Our present registration was begun January 1st, 1909, and since that time nearly a third of the residents of the city have drawn books.

Encouraging as these statistics may be, they represent only a part of the usefulness of the Library. The use of books and magazines in the reading-room is not recorded, but the number of readers there every day indicates what an important part of our usefulness is confined to the Library building itself, and that cannot be expressed in figures.

The additions were as follows:—By purchase, 1,151 volumes; by gift, 181 volumes; by exchange, 3 volumes; transferred from the pay duplicate collection, 122 volumes; making a total of 1,457 added to the catalogue of accessions which now numbers 37,269. There was a gain of 45 in the number of volumes purchased. Two hundred seventeen volumes soiled or too much worn for further use were withdrawn, and of our purchases, 84 volumes were to replace such withdrawals. One hundred sixty-seven volumes were added to the pay duplicate collection and 122 volumes transferred to the free shelves. That this method of supplying additional copies of the latest novels meets with

continued approval is shown by 3,879 rentals, an increase of 596 over last year.

In the selection of books for purchase we have endeavored to pay due regard to the large class of our patrons who desire books only for pleasure reading or relaxation, but our underlying purpose has been to provide works that are timely in the world of events and achievement and that promise to satisfy more than the ephemeral demand. Our semi-annual bulletin shows the diversity of subjects included in our additions for the year.

The public has been informed of the new books by occasional lists in the local papers; by displaying the books on tables in the center of the Library; but our most satisfactory method of advertising has been by personal recommendation. An attempt has been made to call attention to our wealth of literature on various subjects overlooked by the general reader by placing on tables by themselves special collections of books with placards briefly descriptive of them. "Books for Lenten reading," "Books for Music Lovers," "Books of interest to Teachers," "Books for Men, Boys and Boy Scouts," "Books of Travel," and other collections have all gained readers simply by making the books conspicuous.

The new books most in demand were "Queed," a novel by H. S. Harrison, Twenty Years at Hull-House by Jane Addams, all of Arnold Bennett's writings, The Ladies' Battle by Molly Elliott Seawell, and all books on the Boy Scout movement. Acknowledgements are due the local papers for giving us space in their columns for lists of books and other items. We are much indebted to Mr. Levi P. Smith for his "Bookland Loiterings," a series of papers about authors and their books. that has recently appeared in the *Free Press* on Saturdays.

Gifts of valuable and useful volumes, pamphlets, magazines and pictures have been received from various sources. By vote of the City Council the reports and other literature pertaining to municipal affairs that have been on file in the City Clerk's office have been deposited with us and for the present will be shelved in the East gallery. This collection numbering over a thousand volumes and pamphlets will form the nucleus of a larger collection that cannot fail to be of future use in the study of municipal life and problems.

All books purchased this year with the exception of a few received since the middle of December have been duly catalogued. The number



of volumes now catalogued is 29,073, representing 19,939 titles and 52,802 catalogue cards. The additions represent 773 new titles and 1,738 catalogue cards.

There has been an increase in our work with schools. Thirty-eight teachers have taken advantage of our offer to lend them books for supplementary reading, largely their own selection if desired. One thousand three hundred fifty-two books, 1,041 stereographs and 200 pictures were sent out. This year for the first time a number of books were furnished two of the rooms in the High School, for use in the building and for circulation, the teachers keeping the record. In the Thayer and Champlain Schools the same arrangement was made. Collections of about 75 books each have been placed in those schools to remain for three months and then be exchanged for another collection. The Home for Destitute Children has also had similar collections. I desire to express to the several teachers who have so kindly cooperated with us our appreciation of their help and interest in this work. As far as we can judge none of our books promise better results than those furnished the schools.

A gain of 425 in the circulation of books from the children's room indicates the interest in that department. On two successive Saturday afternoons in midwinter the children who came there either to read or to draw books for home use were counted, and numbered over two hundred each time. The hard usage that many of the children's books receive, in spite of our efforts to develop a greater responsibility on the part of the child, renders it necessary to replace many of the more popular titles every year. We are confident, however, that in many homes the books from the Library represent all of the good reading that the children have, which fact is very convincing that books bought that such homes may be provided for is a better investment of our income than can be adequately estimated. An addition to the children's room that will charm and delight all of our young readers is the Book of Knowledge, a children's encyclopedia in 24 volumes, profusely illustrated and full of just such information as the average child is continually seeking.

The Reading Room at the Neighborhood House was open every evening except Sundays from January to May. Books were circulated from there and an interesting collection kept for use in the room. Mrs. E. C. Keech was in attendance every evening, assisted by Mrs. S. W.



Farrar two evenings, the Neighborhood House bearing all of the expense for such service. The privilege of having such a room in that locality was much enjoyed by the boys and girls around there. The enrollment numbered 69 boys and 36 girls. The average attendance was 21. It is to be regretted that the managers have not been able to open the room this winter. We are frequently asked by the boys who were regular attendants, how soon it is to be opened again and we are hopeful that it may be possible eventually to continue the work begun so auspiciously among children whom we cannot reach very successfully from the main Library.

In our reference room much systematic work and earnest study has been done, not only by adult readers but by the students from the High School and College. The reference collection has been strengthened by several important additions, among them being the following works:—Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th edition, in 29 volumes; the Catholic Encyclopedia, 12 volumes received, to be completed in 16 volumes; the Cyclopedia of Education, volumes 1 and 2 received, to be completed in 4 volumes; Library of Literary Criticism of English and American authors, in 8 volumes; Rand, McNally & Co.'s Commercial Atlas of America, census edition. The Library staff aims to keep posted regarding topics under consideration in the schools and several clubs, and books are frequently reserved for study purposes. If a record were kept of all the demands made upon us from the reference room the number would be surprisingly large. With few exceptions, those being chiefly genealogical queries, we have been able to refer all inquiries to sources giving the desired information.

We received 105 periodicals, 79 by subscription and 29 by gift, classified as follows:—8 dailies, 28 weeklies, 62 monthlies, 7 quarterlies. They cover a wide range of subjects and furnish material that is invaluable for reference work. Duplicate copies of eight of the leading monthlies are taken for current circulation.

We have taken advantage of the inter-library loan system several times. Books have been received from the following libraries:—Boston Public; Forbes Library of Northampton, Mass.; Kellogg-Hubbard Library of Montpelier; Public Library of Concord, N. H.; Public Library of Hartford, Conn. Under the same system we have loaned books to the Public Library, Elmira, N. Y., and the following Vermont libraries:—Bristol; Hyde Park; Johnson; Vergennes; and Jericho.

Four thousand three hundred thirty-six books have been repaired. Our growing circulation brings a proportionate increase upon the wear and tear of our books, and has compelled us to devise methods peculiarly our own for repairing books not worth rebinding. The results have been most satisfactory and many volumes have been saved for further use. Four hundred eighty-four volumes, including magazines, have been bound at a total cost of about 45 cents a volume.

The exhibition of field and garden flowers was not as large as last year, doubtless owing to the dry season and the absence from the city of one of our most enthusiastic collectors. The interest, however, was no less than in previous years, and the exhibition occasioned many expressions of pleasant appreciation. In September for a week or more the tables were given up to an exhibition of mushrooms. Upwards of fifty specimens were shown, including the deadly amanita and other poisonous kinds, as well as the edible varieties. This collection attracted more visitors than anything else that was shown during the season. Nearly all specimens came to us unsolicited and we appreciate the interest that makes it possible to continue the exhibition.

No changes have occurred in the staff. Miss Kidder was absent from the Library on account of sickness during May and June, and was on duty only half time in July and August. During her absence the cataloguing was kept up by Mrs. Farrar, and Miss Alice R. Wright substituted for Miss Kidder's hours at the desk afternoons and evenings. Although our circulation is 32,000 more than it was three years ago, there has been no corresponding increase in the staff. Another permanent assistant is much needed, if we are to maintain the highest efficiency. At present we are unable to attend to much more than the regular routine work of the day. We have had two apprentices this year, Miss Anita Burt who has already served five months of an apprenticeship, and Miss Lena Towsley who served for one month and then left us to take up other work. We are now able to give a very practical and systematic training in library methods to apprentices who are willing to give their services without compensation.

It gives me pleasure again to commend the loyal and efficient co-operation received from my assistants, and I desire also to express my personal appreciation of the support and cordial sympathy received from your Board.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE DANA SMITH, Librarian.

## APPENDIX.

## CIRCULATION STATISTICS.

	1910	1911
Magazines and general works .....	2,250	2,439
Philosophy .....	373	483
Religion .....	559	637
Sociology .....	693	687
Language .....	51	29
Natural science .....	644	689
Useful arts .....	801	864
Fine arts .....	831	1,198
Literature .....	2,415	2,399
History .....	1,239	1,506
Travel .....	1,381	1,390
Biography .....	1,015	1,238
Fiction (including juvenile) .....	47,854	51,259
Fiction (Pay Duplicate Collection) .....	3,283	3,879
Juvenile classed books .....	6,508	6,169
Circulation reported from the schools .....	....	521
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.....	69,897	75,387







# Thirty-Ninth Annual Report

OF THE

## TRUSTEES

OF THE

### Fletcher Free Library

CARNEGIE BUILDING

### Burlington, Vermont

## 1912





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Burlington, Vermont

1912

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BURLINGTON:  
FREE PRESS PRINTING COMPANY,  
1913.

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# THE FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY

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Founded in 1873, by Mrs. Mary L. Fletcher and Miss  
Mary M. Fletcher.

CARNEGIE BUILDING, 1904.

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## OFFICERS.

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MRS. G. G. BENEDICT, Secretary.

HENRY L. WARD, Treasurer.

EDMUND C. MOWER.

MAYOR, *Ex-Officio*.

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### CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN AND GENERAL ASSISTANT.

MRS. SALLY W. FARRAR.

### JANITOR.

EDGAR R. TOOLES.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES, 1912,  
OF THE  
**FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY.**

*To the Honorable the City Council, City of Burlington:*

GENTLEMEN:—The Trustees of the Fletcher Free Library, in submitting their annual report beg leave to refer you to the excellent report of the Librarian presented at their annual meeting for detailed information in regard to the work of the Library during the year 1912. From this it will be seen that the circulation has increased by 2,938 over that of last year, and that the registration of borrowers has also grown until it includes approximately one-third of the population of the city.

This of course involves added work for the Librarian and his assistants and it is plain to those in close touch with the administration that the work has very nearly reached the limit of the capacity of the present staff to handle. Any further considerable growth in the circulation will necessitate at least one additional assistant, and the question will soon be before us and before your honorable body whether to allow the work of the Library to remain stationary, or to employ more help, which will of course involve a larger appropriation of the city's funds. The Trustees claim that the Library is managed with great economy both of money and service; that every dollar is made to tell for the benefit of the public in the work of those who compose the Library staff, who give not only efficient routine service, but the intelligent interest and helpful sympathy for which their position gives great opportunity.

Perhaps a word as to the selection and purchase of books may be fitly added to what the Librarian has said. It will be noted that he reports 951 volumes purchased—some of which were to replace worn-out copies of books already in the Library. Half as many more were added by gift; making a net addition of 1,315 volumes, an unusual number for one year. With an income of only a few hundred dollars available for this purpose, it is no small task to select from

the thousands of books published every year, those which shall best satisfy the varied tastes and capacities of the readers, and shall be at the same time of real and permanent value. It is a very important part of the Librarian's work to keep himself informed as to the new books issued and to know where and how to buy them to the best advantage. In this respect, the Trustees, and especially the Book Committee, feel that this Library is very fortunate in its competent and painstaking Librarian.

Mr. Harry H. Brown, who has held the position of Second Assistant for the past three years, declined a re-appointment and retired from the service December 31st. His uniform patience and courtesy at the desk gained him many friends by whom he will be remembered and missed. The Trustees have appointed in his place, Miss Bessie J. Allen, of Grand Isle, whose personal qualifications and previous experience in Library work in the State promise well for her success. This is the only change in the Library staff since our last report.

We gratefully acknowledge from Mrs. Mills and her sisters, daughters of the late Rev. Edward Hungerford, the gift of casts of the Venus of Melos and of the Dying Gaul, one of which ornaments the mantel in the main reading room and the other that in the Children's Room. And a very acceptable and generous gift has been that of a large number of books from the libraries of the late Hon. E. J. Phelps and his daughter, Mrs. Horatio Loomis, presented by Mrs. Charles P. Phelps. It seems especially fitting that Mr. Phelps' books should be preserved and used in this Library, of which he was one of the original Trustees, and to which he gave his interest and valuable services for many years.

Other matters of interest will be found in the report of the Librarian, which we commend to your favorable attention.

Respectfully submitted, for the Trustees,

KATHARINE A. BENEDICT, Secretary.

REPORT OF LIBRARIAN  
OF THE  
**FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY.**

The Librarian's annual report for the year ending December, 1912, the thirty-ninth since the opening of the Library, and the fifth that I have brought before your Board, is respectfully submitted.

During the year that has just closed few noticeable changes have been made in the work or service of the Library. What has seemed from past experience to serve best the needs of our patrons has been continued, with results that show an increase in circulation, and in various ways a wider usefulness.

The Library was available for use 306 days. The total circulation was 78,325, a gain of 2,938 over last year and the largest circulation in the history of the Library. The average daily circulation was 255.9 volumes. The largest daily circulation was 556 on March 16th, and the smallest 117 on May 16th. The circulation by classes and a comparison with last year is given in a supplementary table. The total circulation represents an average of about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  books per capita loaned during the year.

There have been registered since my last report 980 new borrowers. Under our present system of registration the life of a borrower's card is limited to three years. At the expiration of that time the card holder is asked to register again, otherwise our registration would be burdened with hundreds of inactive card holders. Since September 1st, 787 new cards have been issued in place of those that had expired. An approximate total of our registration to date numbers 7,600, which means that fully one-third of the residents of the city are drawing books from the Library.

The additions were as follows:—By purchase 951 volumes; by gift 487 volumes; transferred from the pay duplicate collection 151 volumes; making a total of 1,589 added to the catalogue of accessions which now numbers 38,858. We were obliged to withdraw from circulation 274 volumes, either too much soiled or too worn for further use, which



leaves a net increase of 1,315 for the year. Of our purchases, 63 volumes were to replace withdrawals.

Practically all of the books received this year have been catalogued. The number of volumes now catalogued is 30,971, representing 20,846 titles and 55,206 catalogue cards. The additions represent 907 new titles, and 2,404 catalogue cards, of which 697 were printed cards from the Library of Congress.

The additions have covered the usual wide range of subjects. Many of the more expensive new books we were unable to buy because of our limited income. We have been able, however, to supply a large proportion of the new books asked for, some of which are doubtless not of enduring value, but which are much needed for the time being. Books of more permanent value have not been omitted, and several classes have been strengthened by important additions. We have introduced two new classes this year—music scores and books in Yiddish. There have been added 16 volumes of musical classics for the piano, and a set of the Wagner operas, the complete vocal score with piano accompaniment. For the benefit of the Hebrew residents a collection of 24 volumes in Yiddish was purchased. These books have been so eagerly received that no volume has remained out of circulation many hours.

The most useful and valuable addition for the year is probably the United States Catalog of Books in Print January 1st, 1912, a work of great magnitude and of inestimable service to the Library. A more detailed mention of our additions cannot be given here, but our Annual Bulletin published for free distribution forms a complete catalogue of all books added during 1912. The pay duplicate collection was increased by 147 volumes, which now contains 102 volumes after transferring to the free shelves the copies that have paid for themselves by rentals.

The books most in demand for home use have not all been new titles. "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," by Kate Douglas Wiggin has probably been asked for more times than any of the new novels. "The Harvester" by Gene Stratton Porter, published in 1911 has been almost as popular. Among the classed books that have been in circulation more than any others may be mentioned the writings of Jane Addams; "The Promised Land" by Mary Antin; recent dramatic literature, particu-

larly translations of some of the European writers; and books on the status of woman.

The number of volumes added to the reference collection was 88, which includes 65 bound volumes of the year's magazines. The more important additions were the concluding volumes of the Catholic Encyclopedia; the third volume of the Cyclopedia of Education; and the first volume of the Second Supplement to the Dictionary of National Biography and the World Atlas of Christian Missions. We have received regularly 109 current periodicals, 81 by subscription and 28 by gift, classified as follows:—8 dailies, 29 weeklies, 64 monthlies, 8 quarterlies. Duplicate copies of eight monthlies are taken for current circulation. Nearly all of the late magazines are in constant use. As soon as removed from the reading room they go into circulation. If we were able to keep a statistical record of the number of books used in the reference room we think it would be nearly equal to the number taken out for home use. In addition to books reserved for club work and the schools we have been pleased to accommodate some of the college faculty by reserving books for the use of their classes.

We are indebted to the following libraries for books received through the inter-library loan system:—Boston Public Library, Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass.; Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier, Vt.; the Public Library of Hartford, Conn.; Grafton, Mass.; Concord, N. H.; and Rutland, Vt. We have extended a similar service to nine of our Vermont libraries. Upwards of 50 volumes were loaned them.

The Library has been unusually favored this year with gifts. Books, magazines and pamphlets have been received to the number of 487. Many of the books, although not new titles, were very welcome gifts and were used at once to replace old and worn-out copies. We desire to express to the several donors our grateful appreciation not only of their generosity but of their interest in our work and its needs. We would also extend to the local papers our cordial thanks for space received in their columns for various notices and lists of new books.

Work with the schools has been as follows:—1,394 books, 1,919 stereographs and 143 pictures have been distributed among 58 school rooms. We are much indebted to the teachers for helping the Library to develop this very important service. Beginning with the fall term an additional service was inaugurated by the loan of books for home

reading from ten of the school rooms, the teacher assuming the care of such circulation. At the end of the fall term the circulation was reported, the total number being 981. The Thayer and Champlain Schools also reported a circulation of 586 during the winter and spring terms, making the total circulation through the schools 1,567 for the year. The extension of this service promises to be for the mutual advantage of school and Library. The teachers have the privilege of making their own selection of books to be sent to them, and can thus guide the home reading along lines that will supplement the work in school. And at the same time by this arrangement the very books reach the boys and girls that the Library most desires to have them read. Collections have also been loaned to the Home for Destitute Children and the Nazareth School, and books for reference use have been supplied the Cathedral School and Mount St. Mary's Academy.

The circulation from the children's room was 17,376. Every afternoon after school hours this room presents an animated scene. Boys and girls come trooping in with so many and such varied demands that the children's librarian is more than busy. It is always a favorite place for the writing of compositions. One afternoon by actual count forty came in to write upon the "Origin and Customs of Thanksgiving Day." Teachers frequently notify the children's librarian of a subject assigned for compositions, and books are at once reserved for that purpose. We are also trying to teach the boys and girls where and how to find such material for themselves by using the catalogue, the magazine indexes and the more general works of reference that all school children ought to know.

Four hundred fifty-five volumes have been bound at an average cost of about 43 cents a volume. Four thousand five hundred and eighty-seven books have been mended in the Library. When a book is merely loose in the hinges with the sewing unbroken, we have devised a method of recasing it at our own mending table making it practically as durable as if sent to the bindery. In this way our binding account is much reduced. More care has been given to the preparation of books for the shelves than ever before. Nearly all of the new books for the children's room and a large number of the others have been given a coating of white shellac and then rubbed with paraffine. By this treatment the covers keep clean much longer and are also water proof for some time.



Through the courtesy of several interested friends sufficient contributions of field and garden flowers were received to keep our tables well filled from early spring until late in the autumn. In addition to specimens found here at home others were received from Milton, Cambridge, Mount Mansfield and Camel's Hump. Thanks are due to the members of the Arboreta Walking Club for frequent contributions; to Mr. J. D. Safford of Cambridge for interesting specimens; to Mrs. Lyman P. Wood for mountain laurel, and to many others who were so kind as to remember the exhibition. We may judge of the interest in nature study of this kind by the hundreds of specimens that have been brought in to us during the past four seasons without solicitation on our part.

The Conference of the American Library Association was held this year in Ottawa, Canada, in June, and was attended by the Librarian. The combined meeting of the Vermont Library Association and the State Library Board was held in St. Albans in October. Miss Kidder, Mrs. Farrar and the Librarian were in attendance in turn at a part of the sessions. At one of the sessions of the State Board, Miss Kidder presented a paper giving an account of the nature work done in our Library.

There have been no changes in the positions held by the regular members of the Library staff. Mr. Harry H. Brown tendered his resignation in November but remained with us until the end of the year. Miss Bessie J. Allen has been engaged to succeed him on January 1st. Our circulation is gradually approaching a mark that will be more than equal to the capacity of our present staff for effective service. Another assistant, at least for afternoon and evening service would be an acceptable addition to our force at the present time. We have had three apprentices this year. Miss Anita Burt finished a year's apprenticeship in June and was engaged as a substitute during the vacation period. Miss Ethel Ward and Miss Daisy Hazeltine have each served two months. Miss Ward has recently been engaged to assist at the desk two evenings a week. We aim to give the apprentice help a thorough training in the regular routine work of the Library. In addition to this, for three months last winter two mornings a week were devoted to special work with the apprentices and other assistants in the Library. Miss Kidder gave systematic instruction in the technicalities of cataloguing and the Librarian gave practical



lessons in reference work with several talks on the selection and evaluation of recent books.

It gives me pleasure to commend and to thank my assistants for their willing and efficient services. To the members of your Honorable Board I desire to express my sincere thanks for the encouragement and support given me throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE DANA SMITH,

Librarian.

## APPENDIX.

### CIRCULATION STATISTICS.

	1911	1912
Magazines and general works .....	2,439	2,437
Philosophy .....	483	557
Religion .....	637	554
Sociology .....	687	994
Language .....	29	70
Natural science .....	689	711
Useful arts .....	864	975
Fine arts .....	1,198	1,308
Literature .....	2,399	2,680
History .....	1,506	1,364
Travel .....	1,390	1,292
Biography .....	1,238	1,202
Fiction (including juvenile) .....	51,259	52,300
Fiction (Pay Duplicate Collection) .....	3,879	4,127
Juvenile classed books .....	6,169	6,187
Circulation reported from the schools .....	521	1,567
Total .....	75,387	78,325













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# Fortieth Annual Report

OF THE

## TRUSTEES

OF THE

# Fletcher Free Library

Carnegie Building

Burlington, Vermont

1913

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BURLINGTON, VT.:

FREE PRESS PRINTING COMPANY,

1914.

2001

# THE FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY

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Founded in 1873, by Mrs. Mary L. Fletcher and Miss Mary  
M. Fletcher.

CARNEGIE BUILDING, 1904.

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## OFFICERS.

### TRUSTEES OF THE LIBRARY.

WILLIAM J. VAN PATTEN, President.

MRS. G. G. BENEDICT, Secretary.

HENRY L. WARD, Treasurer.

EDMUND C. MOWER.

MAYOR, *Ex-Officio*.

### TRUSTEES OF THE FLETCHER FUND.

WALTER C. ISHAM,  
CLARENCE L. SMITH,  
MERTON C. GRANDY.

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### LIBRARIAN.

GEORGE DANA SMITH.

### ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN AND CATALOGUER.

MISS RUTH M. KIDDER.

### SECOND ASSISTANT.

BESSIE J. ALLEN.

### CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN AND GENERAL ASSISTANT.

MRS. SALLY W. FARRAR.

### JANITOR.

EDGAR R. TOOLES.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
**FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY.**

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*To the Honorable the City Council, City of Burlington:*

GENTLEMEN:—The Trustees of the Fletcher Free Library have the honor to submit the annual report of the Librarian for the year 1913, and to bespeak your careful consideration of its facts and recommendations.

From this it appears that the circulation is still steadily growing, and this is especially the case in the increasing use of the Library by the public schools, for which we and the community are largely indebted to the intelligent interest and effort of Mrs. Farrar, the efficient Superintendent of the Children's Room. In addition to her duties there and her work for the schools she has taken up the cataloguing which Miss Kidder was obliged to relinquish last summer, and is proving herself very capable in that line of work.

Miss Ruth M. Kidder, who had served the Library for eight years, as Cataloguer and General Assistant presented her resignation in the late summer on account of ill health, which compelled her to take a long-continued rest. The Trustees deferred action on Miss Kidder's resignation, and gave her indefinite leave of absence, in the hope that she might in time resume her duties at the Library. But they are reluctantly forced to the conclusion that while Miss Kidder is reported by her friends and physicians to be improving in health there is no prospect that she will be able to do library work at present. Miss Kidder was an unusually accomplished cataloguer. She excelled especially in the classification of books, and her fine literary sense added to her readiness to help made her an extremely valuable aid in the selection of books, and in looking up subjects in the Reference Library. She made many warm friends who share with the Trustees their regret for her enforced absence, and the hope that she may be restored to health at no distant day.



Last year we ventured to call your attention to the fact that the rapid increase in the use of the Library was fast approaching the limit of the capacity of the present staff to handle. The Librarian's figures this year emphasize this fact and also the need of more available room, for the varied work of the Library. Shelves will soon be placed in the galleries to contain the bound periodicals now in the basement of the stack room, which with suitable tables and chairs and lights will furnish a much needed and convenient place for consulting these volumes. But this improvement is not the only one needed. The Trustees feel that the time has come when one or more of the upper rooms in the building should be finished off and furnished with lights and heat and seats for small gatherings. The College Extension work now going on in the building, which the Librarian describes in his report, is cramped for room for the classes, and other work, such as lectures, readings, etc., coming legitimately within the scope of the Library might be carried on if there were a suitable room for it. We feel sure that the comparatively small outlay of money required for the additional space and facilities, would bring ample return, to the Library and to the community.

Occasional complaints come to the ears of the Trustees, because there is not more of the recent fiction on the Library shelves; also, because all the newest and finest illustrated books for children are not on the tables and shelves in the Children's Room, and because many of the children's books which are in circulation are badly soiled. To all such criticism we make the standing reply that we cannot spend more for books than the small income from the Fletcher fund, set aside for that purpose; that to increase materially the proportion of fiction, would be to sacrifice the modicum of serious and permanent literature to what is at best, ephemeral; that we should like to treat the children to everything that is good and beautiful in the way of children's books, and to replace immediately those that become worn or soiled by use, but that under our conditions it is utterly impossible to do this. That the different kinds of books and reading are as well balanced as they are, we have again to thank the fine sense of proportion of our excellent Librarian, who might do more, if he had more material to work with.

The Fletcher fund, the income of which is devoted to the purchase of books, was a very liberal gift for one family to make, in addition

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to that for the original purchase of books for the starting of the Library. Forty years ago, it seemed adequate for the needs of the Library for years to come. But to meet the needs of the larger reading public of today, with all its varied and multiplied interests, a much larger sum might profitably be expended on books. Might it not be the part of wisdom for the city to add to its appropriation for the expenses of the Library, a yearly sum for the purchase of books?

Respectfully submitted, for the Trustees,

KATHARINE A. BENEDICT, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN  
OF THE  
**FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY.**

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The Librarian's annual report for the year ending December 31, 1913, the fortieth since the opening of the Library, and the sixth that I have had the privilege of presenting to your Board, is respectfully submitted.

The year has probably been the busiest one in the history of the Library and in many respects the hardest one, because of sickness and changes in the staff. The regular work has been accomplished, however, without curtailment of service, and we are able to report a larger circulation than ever before; additional work with the schools; improvements in the equipment and furnishing of the building; and a steady growth in usefulness to the community in ways that cannot be estimated by a statistical record.

CIRCULATION.

Number of days open .....	305
Number of books loaned for home use .....	82,500
Largest daily issue, March 29th .....	579
Smallest daily issue, July 1st .....	118
Average daily issue .....	270
Percentage of non-fiction .....	33%
Circulation from the schools .....	4,772
Circulation from inter-library loans .....	75

The total circulation which was the largest since the opening of the Library shows a gain over last year of 4,175. Although small, this gain is very gratifying when counter attractions are taken into account. At present our strongest competitor is the moving picture show. On the other hand, the Library is indebted to the moving pictures for giving a wider publicity to some of the greatest books in the world's literature than we can give by any methods of advertising at our command. Homer, Dante, Shakespeare, Browning, Longfellow, Dumas, Dickens and Sienkiewicz are among the authors that have been intro-



duced to our patrons through the medium of the moving picture. The circulation by classes is given in a supplementary table.

## REGISTRATION.

Since our last report upwards of a thousand new borrowers have been registered, but our total registration now of 7,000 is slightly less than last year, owing to the failure of many borrowers to register again upon the expiration of their cards. This number does not include temporary cards issued to non-residents spending a few weeks in the city. The privilege of a temporary card has been much appreciated, and so many requests are received for them that a special registration will be kept this year.

## CATALOGUING.

The cataloguing has been continued, and nearly all of the additions, with the exception of those received since Dec. 1st, have been duly catalogued. The number of volumes now catalogued numbers 32,308 representing 21,558 titles and 57,139 catalogue cards. The additions represent 712 new titles and 1,933 catalogue cards of which 611 were those issued by the Library of Congress.

## ADDITIONS.

Received by purchase .....	1,238	volumes.
Received by gifts .....	197	"
Transferred from the pay duplicate collection..	159	"
Total additions .....	1,594	"
Withdrawn .....	300	"
Net additions .....	1,294	"

Our Annual Bulletin published for free distribution forms a complete catalogue of all books added during the year. The aim has been to purchase as far as our income would permit the latest, and as far as we knew, the best books on the more important questions of the day. Frequent requests are received from our patrons for the latest publications, and the selection of our purchases is influenced largely by such requests.

As usual, the most popular book purchased this year was a novel, Winston Churchill's "Inside of the Cup." Of the classed books the new volumes of Poems by Alfred Noyes, and The Biography of Mark Twain by Albert Bigelow Paine have been called for more than any others.

## REFERENCE BOOKS.

Valuable additions have been made to the books for reference use. Among others, were 79 bound volumes of magazines, but the most important addition was that of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register in 65 volumes. The set was formerly owned by Hon. Russell S. Taft, and was purchased from the Estate of Mrs. Jane M. Taft. It is a work of unusual value and interest; giving records of the domestic, civil, literary, religious, and political life of the people of the United States and particularly of New England. Few of the smaller libraries can ever hope to own this work, and we are most fortunate in being able to secure this set.

## PERIODICALS.

We have received regularly for the reading room 118 current periodicals, 89 by subscription and 29 by gift, classified as follows:—8 dailies, 31 weeklies, 69 monthlies, 10 quarterlies. The usefulness of these magazines only begins in the reading room. As soon as the current number is received the back numbers are used for circulation. No privilege that we offer is accepted more eagerly than the loan of the back numbers of the magazines for home reading. We also have duplicate copies of ten of the leading magazines for current circulation.

## CHILDREN'S ROOM.

The circulation from the children's room was 10,702 fiction, 6,356 non-fiction, total 17,058. This circulation is about 200 less than last year, which is accounted for by the larger number of books available for home use that can be obtained from the school rooms without coming to the Library. Three hundred and seventy-nine new books were purchased for the children's room, 65 of the number being to replace soiled or worn out copies. New pictures of interest to the children have been purchased as follows:—a carbon print of the "Boyhood of Raleigh" by Millais, and Longman's Historical Wall Pictures, a series of twelve pictures reproduced in color from paintings from authentic sources, and illustrative of British History from Roman times to the present day. A short visit to the children's room on almost any afternoon will prove what a popular place it is, and even a cursory examination of the condition of the books with the record of circulation will show in how many homes they are shared.

## WORK WITH SCHOOLS.

Number of school rooms supplied with books.....	51
Number of books loaned the schools .....	2,726
Number of stereographs loaned the schools .....	1,430
Number of pictures loaned the schools .....	128
Number of books loaned from the school room for home use .....	4,772

There is a gain of 3,205 in the school circulation. The extension of this work seems to promise more than almost any other service that we can render the city. We desire to make grateful acknowledgement to the teachers who are cooperating with us in our endeavors to help the children to gain an appreciation of good books, and to form the habit of reading them. But not all of our work for the schools is done by supplying books for the school room. Nearly every afternoon when school is over we are more than busy with the boys and girls who come asking for material for compositions, debates, pieces to speak, etc., until the resources of the Library as well as the staff's fund of information are taxed to the limit. One teacher asked that during the Christmas vacation her class memorize some poem, and obtain the principal facts about the author. The result was that about thirty children took out as many volumes of poetry, and later came to us for information regarding the author of the poem they had selected. This necessitated considerable research, as some of the authors were quite obscure if not wholly unknown. This instance well illustrates the kind of service that we are constantly giving the school children.

Another line of education work has been recently inaugurated for us by the College Extension Work Committee. Classes in English for foreigners have been formed by students from the University of Vermont. For lack of a better and more suitable room for the classes, the Trustees' room has been used for one class, and the basement corridor for another.

## NATURE WORK.

The exhibition of field and garden flowers seems to have established itself permanently as a part of our summer work. It has been continued wholly by voluntary contributions. The number of varieties



contributed was not as large as some years, but it was of unusual interest because of the rarity of some of the specimens, particularly those of our native orchids.

#### BINDING.

Five hundred sixty-seven volumes have been bound at an average cost of 48 cents per volume. Of this number, there were 79 volumes of magazines, and 5 volumes of newspapers. Five thousand six hundred seventy-one books have been mended at our repair table. The bulk of this work has been done by Miss Allen whose general care and painstaking handiwork have prolonged the circulation of many volumes, and deferred the expense of rebinding.

#### BUILDING.

The equipment and furnishing of the building have been greatly improved this year. The receiving and delivery desk, which had become altogether too small for our present needs, has been sufficiently enlarged to give ample working space for our growing needs and to enable us to give better service during the busy hours of the day. Two new book cases, one for the Trustees' room to hold some of the more valuable books, and another for the entrance hall for the late fiction, were much needed additions. Changes are being made to improve the system of lighting. Mazda lamps with globes have been put into the reading rooms and the upper stack. Other changes are in progress to further improve the lighting of the building. The concrete floor of the lower stack has been given two coats of cement paint. It is a great improvement over the old dusty floor, not only in cleanliness, but in appearance.

It is to be regretted that the gallery rooms are not finished and available for educational and social purposes. Scarcely a week passes that we do not feel the need of an additional room for some line of work strictly in accord with what ought to be expected from any up-to-date public library. The expense of furnishing these rooms would be comparatively small, and the various uses that could be made of them for the benefit of our public would doubtless exceed all expectations.

## LIBRARY STAFF.

Several changes have taken place in the Library staff. On January 1st, Miss Bessie J. Allen succeeded Mr. Harry H. Brown as desk assistant. In August, Miss Kidder was compelled to give up her work because of failing health. Her intelligent and efficient services as cataloguer and assistant librarian have contributed no small part to the success of our work. Her absence is regretted, not only by the members of our staff, but by many of our patrons whose frequent inquiries for her welfare express better than almost anything else the value of her work here. Of Miss Kidder's work, Mrs. Farrar has carried on the cataloguing, and her other duties have been shared by members of the staff. On September 1st, Miss Edith L. Stone, a graduate of the Training Class of the City Library of Springfield, Mass., began work and remained until December, but was unable to continue because of illness. During the vacation period Miss Anita Burt and Miss Ethel Ward served as substitutes. Three apprentices, Hermann Knickerbocker, Miss Mary E. Winslow and Miss Adalove Howell have worked for short periods. Hermann Knickerbocker now assists in the evening work, and is further employed as a substitute when needed.

Our regular staff has not gained in numbers proportionately with the circulation and the increase of work. We have now reached the point where the present staff is wholly too small for the work that we are trying to do, and the hours are necessarily longer than is possible for the most efficient library service. I would recommend that an additional assistant be employed the coming year.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Library has been the grateful recipient of gifts of books, magazines, and pictures to the number of 197. Thanks are also due to the contributors to the exhibition of flowers and to the local papers for courtesies received.

In closing my report, I desire to make cordial acknowledgment of the industry and faithfulness of the staff, and also to thank your Honorable Board for the confidence reposed in me, and for the loyal support that I have received throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE DANA SMITH,

Librarian.

## APPENDIX.

## CIRCULATION STATISTICS.

	1912	1913
Magazines and general works .....	2,437	3,352
Philosophy .....	557	584
Religion .....	554	565
Sociology .....	994	1,145
Language .....	70	65
Natural science .....	711	720
Useful arts .....	975	860
Fine arts .....	1,308	1,241
Literature .....	2,680	3,083
History .....	1,364	1,207
Travel .....	1,292	1,480
Biography .....	1,202	1,273
Fiction (including juvenile) .....	52,300	51,424
Fiction (Pay Duplicate Collection) .....	4,127	4,373
Juvenile classed books .....	6,187	6,356
Circulation reported from the schools .....	1,567	4,772
Total .....	78,325	82,500







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CATALOGING

# Forty-First Annual Report

OF THE

## TRUSTEES

OF THE

## Fletcher Free Library

Carnegie Building

Burlington, Vermont

1914

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# Forty-First Annual Report

OF THE

## TRUSTEES

OF THE

## Fletcher Free Library

Carnegie Building

Burlington, Vermont

1914

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BURLINGTON:  
FREE PRESS PRINTING COMPANY,  
1915

A. W.

# THE FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY

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Founded in 1873, by Mrs. Mary L. Fletcher and Miss Mary  
M. Fletcher.

CARNEGIE BUILDING, 1904.

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GEORGE DANA SMITH.

### ASSISTANTS.

MISS HAZEL A. JOHNSON,

MISS ELIZABETH ROGERS,

FANNIE ROTHMAN.

### JANITOR.

E. R. TOOLES.



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
**FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY.**

*To the Honorable City Council, City of Burlington:*

GENTLEMEN:

The report of the Librarian for the year 1914, which we have the pleasure of submitting herewith, covers so completely the work of the year in the Library, as to call for little addition or comment on the part of the Trustees.

As was the case the previous year the work has been done under the great disadvantage of frequent changes in the staff. With the exception of that of the Librarian, not a single name now appears on the list, which was there a year ago.

Mrs. Farrar, who for more than six years had had charge of the children's room, was obliged on account of removal from town, to sever her connection with the Library on the 1st of August. Besides her work in the children's room, where she had endeared herself to the children and to their parents, and teachers as well, by her wise and sympathetic response to their needs and problems, she had done excellent work as general assistant, especially in the reference room; during the whole period of her service, and during the last year, after Miss Kidder's retirement, she had proved very capable as a cataloguer. The regret of the Trustees and of her associates on the Library staff over her departure is shared by all who came in contact with her in the Library, and all join in wishing her success and happiness wherever her lot may be cast.

Miss Elizabeth Rogers who succeeds Mrs. Farrar in charge of the children's room, began her work on the 1st of October, and is already proving an efficient and popular member of the staff.

On the 1st of July, Miss Allen who had served for two years and a half as general assistant, resigned her position to the regret of all who had been associated with her in the work of the Library, and of the patrons who had learned to depend on her prompt and obliging service at the desk. Industrious and capable, useful in so many ways,

it looked as if her place might be difficult to fill. But Miss Hazel Johnson has shown unusual capacity and facility in the various kinds of work required of a general assistant. Miss Rothman, too, beginning a few months ago as an apprentice, has developed into an efficient helper, and the Trustees feel that in spite of so many changes, the Library is as well served as the limits of its income allow.

That the Librarian is still able to report an increased circulation, particularly in the use of the Library by the schools, is especially gratifying when it is noted that for several weeks, during an epidemic of infantile paralysis, no children were admitted to the Library. That in spite of this, the circulation for the year should have exceeded that of any previous year, is worthy of remark.

The Librarian notes some changes for the better in the arrangements of the building, such as the improved lights in the reading rooms, and the removal of the bound periodicals to shelves in the galleries on either side of the main hall, where tables and lights give better opportunity to consult the volumes than has been previously afforded.

A fine lithograph of De Camp's portrait of Abraham Lincoln has been presented to the Library by Mrs. C. E. Beach, and hangs on the east wall of the reading room; and a copy of the Winged Victory of the Louvre formerly belonging to Mr. A. E. Richardson has also been received. For these gifts and for all other indications of interest in the Library from whatever source, the Trustees desire to express their appreciation and thanks.

Respectfully submitted, for the Trustees,

Katharine A. Benedict, Secretary.

# REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

## OF THE

### FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY.

The Librarian's annual report for the year ending December 31, 1914, the forty-first since the opening of the Library, and the seventh under the present librarianship, is respectfully submitted.

There have been no marked changes in our work during the year, but we have made substantial progress as the following record and statistics will show.

#### CIRCULATION.

Number of days open .....	305
Number of books issued for outside use .....	87,041
Number of stereographs and pictures issued for outside use .....	1,423
Largest daily issue, November 28th .....	561
Smallest daily issue, August 7th .....	115
Average daily issue .....	285.3
Percentage of classed books .....	32 $\frac{2}{5}$ %
Circulation from the schools .....	6,421

For the past seven years the patronage of the Library has increased each year. The total circulation of 87,041 this year is the largest in the history of the Library, and is a gain of 4,541 over 1913. This total circulation represents an average of 4 books lent per capita. We feel now, however, that we cannot expect much more gain in circulation until funds are available for the establishing of delivery stations in distant parts of the city. This year our circulation includes for the first time books for the blind which we were able to supply through the courtesy of the Perkins Institution. The circulation by classes is given in a supplementary table.



REGISTRATION.

Our registration varies only slightly from last year which was 7000. Upwards of 750 new names were registered, not including 79 temporary cards issued to the students of the University of Vermont summer school.

CATALOGUING.

The cataloguing has been kept up-to-date. The number of volumes now catalogued numbers 33,660, representing 22,444 titles, and 60,637 catalogue cards. The additions represent 882 new titles and 3493 cards of which 1,094 cards were obtained from the Library of Congress.

ADDITIONS.

Received by purchase .....	1,061	volumes
Received by gift .....	158	"
Transferred from the pay duplicate collection...	140	"
Total additions .....	1,359	"
Withdrawn .....	201	"
Net additions .....	1,158	"

As in previous years, our selection of books for purchase has been guided largely by the public itself. It seldom occurs that, except in fiction, any book called for is not supplied either by purchase, or by the Inter-library loan system.

The novel most called for this year was "Pollyanna" by Eleanor H. Porter, and for the past three months the "White Dawn" by Theodora Peck has been equally popular. The classed book most in demand was probably "In the Courts of Memory" by Lillie De Hegermann-Lindencrone. Since the opening of the European War the histories and books descriptive of the countries in the war zone have been in constant circulation, as well as several recently published books bearing directly upon the war, that have been lately purchased. The Library desires to render useful service to the literary and study clubs of the city, and has accordingly included in the additions, especially for use of the clubs, books on South America, Home Economics, Civics, the Status of Woman, and the Drama.



## REFERENCE BOOKS.

Every year due regard is given to the needs of the reference room. This year the following books were bought for reference use:—the revised edition of the Century Dictionary in 12 volumes; the second edition of the New International Encyclopaedia in 24 volumes, of which 6 volumes, all that are published, have been received; Auction Prices of Books in 4 volumes, a representative record of English book prices current from 1886 to 1904, and American prices from 1894 to 1904.

We are indebted to the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Vermont for the munificent gift of the Index to volumes 1 to 50 of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register. This Index which is contained in 4 volumes is almost necessary for the efficient use of the Register. No recent addition has been more appreciated than this work has been. The Register is doubtless used more at present than other set of reference books in the Library.

## PERIODICALS.

Our list of periodicals for the year included 125 titles, of which 84 were received by subscription and 41 by gift. Of this number, there were 8 dailies, 32 weeklies, 73 monthlies and 12 quarterlies. Duplicate copies of 11 of the more popular magazines are received by subscription for current circulation. A long needed change has been made in the shelving of the bound volumes of magazines. Early in the year cases were built and placed around the gallery walls, and the magazines indexed in Poole's Index and the Reader's Guide have been removed from the lower stack and shelved in these new cases. This arrangement has been much liked so far, and it is certainly a great improvement to have the magazines that are consulted so frequently, shelved in a place easy of access, and in a pleasanter part of the building.

## CHILDREN'S ROOM.

The circulation from the children's room was 9,707 fiction, 6,117 classed books, total 15,824, which is 1,240 less than last year. A part of this deficit, at least, was due to the epidemic of infantile paralysis in September. For three weeks children were not allowed in the Library, and for several weeks afterwards the children's room was

almost deserted. The children have been slow in returning to us, but we feel now that the room is regaining its popularity.

#### WORK WITH SCHOOLS.

Number of school rooms supplied with books .....	53
Number of books issued for school use.....	2,729
Number of stereographs issued for school use .....	1,200
Number of pictures issued for school use .....	223
Number of books issued from the school room for home use .....	6,421

Co-operation with the public schools has been continued, and the usual number of books supplied to them. The circulation from the school rooms was 1,649 more than last year. Mount St. Mary's Academy, The Nazareth School, and the Home for Destitute Children are granted the same privileges as the public schools. At the opening of the fall term we received from the Superintendent of Schools a copy of the Provisional Course of Study from the first to the eighth grades inclusive, giving an excellent list of books suggested for home and school reading. We were pleased to find that the greater part of the books suggested were already on our shelves. We are now gradually adding the other titles with the intention of having eventually a copy of every book on the list. It is very gratifying to be able to co-operate with the schools in this manner, and we appreciate the efforts of the teachers in helping the Library to get good books into the hands of the children.

Classes in English for foreigners, conducted by the College Extension Work Committee, are held regularly in the Library during the winter months. The average attendance is small, but the result of the work has been most encouraging.

#### BINDING.

Four hundred five volumes have been bound at an average cost of 48½ cents per volume. The number of volumes repaired in the Library was 6,052. The hard usage that books receive in some quarters is most discouraging. In spite of all of our efforts to secure more careful usage, books are frequently returned in a soiled or dilapidated condition. A charge is made for such injuries, but we are

seldom able to collect enough to buy new copies. Of the year's purchases, 49 volumes were to replace books no longer fit for service.

#### BUILDING.

Necessary repairs on the building and improvements in its equipment have been made this year. A part of the overhead ceiling in the main hall which had become so badly cracked that there was danger of its falling, has been repaired. The steam pipes in the lower stack and basement have been covered with asbestos pipe covering. The system of lighting has been entirely changed. The chandeliers in the reading rooms have recently been replaced by a 500 Watt Phenixlite in each room. With these larger lights, which give a wider diffusion of light than the old lamps, it will be possible to remove all of the table lamps, a change that will greatly improve the appearance of the reading rooms. Oak shelving to match the other woodwork has been placed around the gallery walls, and is being used for sets of periodicals as previously mentioned. This additional shelving is an economical investment, as it will relieve the congestion in the lower stack for several years.

#### LIBRARY STAFF.

With the exception of the librarian and janitor the entire staff has changed since my last report. At the beginning of the year, we were short one assistant, and in February Miss Hazel A. Johnson was engaged to fill the vacancy. In June, Miss Fannie Rothman began work as an apprentice, and is now employed as general assistant, but is giving the most of her time to the cataloguing and to the care of books for school use. Miss Bessie J. Allen, because of poor health, tendered her resignation which took effect July 1st. Miss Allen was a valued assistant, faithful and systematic in the discharge of all duties assigned to her. Mrs. Sally W. Farrar, because of changes in her home which necessitated leaving town, also relinquished her position and finished work in August. Mrs. Farrar for the past five years had presided over the children's room, and for the past year had also assisted in the cataloguing. The development and the success of our work with the children and the public schools are largely due to Mrs. Farrar's intelligent service. In the reference room and at the desk she was equally successful. These resignations were accepted very regretfully,



and it was not possible to have a permanent staff again until October 1st. During the interim the work was done by substitute help. Miss S. May Tuck of South Norwalk, Conn., a graduate of the Training Class of the City Library of Springfield, Mass., was employed from July 1st to October 1st, giving the best of satisfaction. Hermann Knickerbocker also assisted very acceptably for two months and a half. On October 1st, Miss Elizabeth Rogers, for several years Librarian of the Public Library of Swanton, Vt., began work as general assistant and has charge of the children's room. Miss Molly E. Mower, Hermann Knickerbocker, and Earle F. Walbridge are employed for short periods when extra help is needed.

The members of the present staff all manifest a keen interest in furthering the usefulness of the Library, and I am pleased to commend to your board the excellence of their work.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Grateful acknowledgment has been made to the several donors whose kind thoughtfulness for our needs has been expressed by gifts of books, magazines, and pictures. I am sure that most of the patrons of the Library would join me in expressing a word of cordial thanks to the Arboreta Walking Club, and others, who helped to make the Library more attractive during the summer months, by contributions of field and garden flowers, thus enabling us to continue the exhibition which was started five years ago. The local papers have generously accorded us space for book lists, notices, and items of interest pertaining to the Library for which we desire to express our appreciation and thanks.

In conclusion, I wish to thank your Board for your counsel and the continuance of your support of my efforts to promote what has seemed to me advisable for the best interests of the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

George Dana Smith, Librarian.



























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